

THE  
Compleat PRACTICE  
Of MEN and WOMEN  
M I D W I V E S:  
OR, THE  
TRUE MANNER of ASSISTING  
A  
WOMAN in CHILD-BEARING.

Illustrated with a considerable Number of  
O B S E R V A T I O N S.

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By P A U L P O R T A L,  
Sworn Surgeon and Man-Midwife in *Paris*.

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Translated from the Original.

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MDCCLIII.



TO  
DR. MORRIS

Professor of the Royal Academy  
of Medicine, and Civil Physician to  
the King

21 R

I was not the value I put  
upon the thing, but  
that made me return to  
fer it to you, but so few my  
acknowledgment, and the Dr.  
he had to submit the same to  
the patronage of a person, who  
upon all occasions, whenever I  
had

A 2

T O

Dr. MOREAU,

PROFESSOR of the Royal Academy .  
of PARIS, one of his Majesty's  
Council, and Chief Physician to  
the Dauphiness.

S I R,

**I**T was not the value I put  
upon the ensuing treatise  
that made me resolve to of-  
fer it to you, but to shew my  
acknowledgment, and the De-  
sire I had to submit the same to  
the patronage of a person, who,  
upon all occasions, whenever I

A 2

had

#### iv DEDICATION.

had the honour to perform my operations under your directions, has proved my powerful protector. Your Name, Sir, will serve as an indelible stamp to settle its value, and free it from the aspersions of malignant persons. I look upon it as a singular advantage to myself, that the following observations, which I am going to publish under your protection, are for the most part such, as wherein you have a greater share than myself, because they contain divers instructions and wholesome directions, given to me by yourself, and for which consequently  
both



## DEDICATION. v

both the public and I stand indebted to you ; so, that as the reverence the world bears to your Name, will serve me as a shield to protect myself against my enemies, so I acknowledge myself incapable of making any further return to your goodness, than to acknowledge myself with all imaginable sincerity and submission, as long as I live,

S I R,

Your most humble,

and dutiful Servant,

P O R T A L.

THE  
PREFACE  
OF THE  
AUTHOR  
TO THE  
READER

A  
I am ready to confess that  
I have written this book not in any  
wise to satisfy the curiosity of  
learned Readers, but to excite the errors  
of my countrymen, and to show in the  
following pages, that the  
being false, and the well of  
my health, and the true inclination  
I had to publish these Observations,  
the same would have been concealed  
within the compass of my own closet,  
had not some of my friends, who are  
unquestionable judges of things of  
this

T H E  
P R E F A C E  
O F T H E  
A U T H O R  
T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

**A**S I am ready to confess, that my genius tends not in any wise to writing, so I hope the courteous Reader will excuse the errors he may perhaps meet with in the following treatise, especially, since being sufficiently sensible, as well of my inability, as the little inclination I had to publish these Observations, the same would have lain concealed within the compass of my own closet, had not some of my friends, who are unquestionable judges of things of



## P R E F A C E.

this nature, persuaded, and most urgently pressed me to oblige the world with what they were assured would tend to the instruction of those that profess Midwifery. This reason being the only one that prevailed with me to appear in print, and all possible care being taken to publish these Observations with all imaginable fidelity, I shall never repent of my resolution, if it meet with an impartial interpretation and acceptance from the public. It is therefore, that I must intreat the Reader to have a regard not so much to the style and nicety of choice words, (for which I acknowledge myself but indifferently qualified), as the weight and truth of the matter itself; which, as it was the only scope I aimed at in this Treatise, so I can aver, that I have asserted nothing in relation to it, but what is  
founded

## P R E F A C E.

founded upon my own experience, and what I am ready and able to make good at this day, whenever occasion presents itself. Since it was next to an impossibility to avoid, upon divers occasions, the mentioning of the errors committed by some Midwives, I profess the same not to have been done with the least intention of exposing them, or to interfere with their practice, (for which reason I carefully avoided to mention their names) but only to serve as a warning and instruction unto others, that they may not stumble over the same block, to the great detriment of their patients, and their own reputation. I am further obliged to acquaint the Reader, that the reason why such observations as treat of the same circumstances of things, are not joined, or at least succeed one another

## P R E F A C E.

ther immediately in this Treatise, is, because I chose rather to publish them in the same order as they were transacted: Besides, that, there may be observed in most, if not all of them, a remarkable difference in relation to their circumstances.

P O R T A L.

A T A B L E



A  
T A B L E

OF THE  
CHAPTERS and OBSERVATIONS  
contained in this Treatise.

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A TRUE  
M E T H O D  
Of Assisting a  
CHILD-BEARING WOMAN  
IN HER  
T R A V A I L,  
Founded upon a considerable Number  
of OBSERVATIONS.

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C H A P. I.

*Of the Natural Way of Delivery.*

**T**HE delivery of a woman is performed by two different ways; either by the pure strength and direction of nature, when the mother finding herself affected with violent pains, brings forth the child without the assistance of a midwife; or when the same is accomplished by the hands of a skilful man-midwife or midwife. This last having been  
B differently

differently treated of by divers authors, I will content myself with proposing only what I have approved by my own experience.

To begin then with the natural way of delivery. If a man-midwife or midwife is called to a child-bearing woman whose time or reckoning is expired ; it ought to be enquired into, whether she has any pains in the belly, about the bladder, groin, and hips ; and whether they draw downwards towards the groin and fundament : if the pains continue and seem to promise an approaching travail, the woman must be searched in the following manner. Let the midwife after she has well warmed and pared the nails of her hands, put her right or left foremost finger (according to the position of the woman) well besmeared with fresh butter or any other oleaginous substance (without scent) into the entrance of the womb, taking care not to hurt the urinal passages, lying on the upper side ; this done, let her advance gradually towards the orifice of the womb, which bears always downwards when the time of travail is at hand : if you find the womb opened, it is a sign of the approaching travail, a thing well to be observed by midwives, for fear of giving a wrong judgment in the matter.

It happens however sometimes that the womb of a child-bearing woman opens it-  
3
self,

self, to discharge some superfluous humours, and afterwards closes again, whereof I have observed several instances in my practice; whence it is evident, that the opening of the womb is not sufficient alone to judge of the approaching delivery, unless the same be attended with the requisite pains. As the pains and travail encrease, then will the womb become wider and softer, when you must take care to feel whether its orifice turns forwards towards the bladder, or backwards towards the guts: In the first case, you may expect a much quicker and easier delivery, because the outward and inward orifices of the womb are in a direct line; whereas in the last case it proves more difficult and slow, and the orifice of the womb being not so easily to be reached with your finger, you must carry your finger along the lowermost part of the entrance to the womb, where it adjoins to the gut.

When you intend to discover the opening of the womb, you must do the same during the intervals of the pains, when you may with less opposition enter the orifice, which encloses your finger like a ring; but care must be taken to do it without the least force, but to let the opening grow bigger and softer by degrees, by means of the pains and the water contained in the womb. In this point you ought to proceed with so much caution, that, though you find the membranes or skins

B 2

already



already very thin, you must not be too forward, but touch those parts as rarely and as gently as possibly may be, for fear of causing unnecessary pains and inflammations ; though I have observed this to be a vulgar error among midwives, little considering that the opening of the womb ought to proceed from the pains and the succeeding water : for in case the membranes or skins are broken before their due time, and the water comes forth before the womb is sufficiently opened, the womb closes up again ; so that the child's head finding the passage very strait, renders the delivery much more difficult, especially at the first labour.

As the pains increase the water inclosed in the membranes, being pushed forwards into the orifice of the womb, appears at first like as an extended pig's bladder of the bigness of a hazle-nut ; but as the pains increase, the water forces itself more forward with the membranes to the inward orifice of the womb, which being thereby opened by degrees, the membranes are more and more extended, but slacken as soon as the pains cease, and return to the same station, with the increase of the pains, pressing very hard upon the orifice of the womb ; which opening thus by degrees, and in a manner unperceived, comes not to its full highth in some women, but in some days ; whereas in others it proceeds so quick, that they have scarce time

to

to stay for the assistance of a midwife. In such cases you see the membranes or skins, which at first were no bigger than a hazle-nut, to extend in a short time to the bigness of an egg; and in some to the bulk of a child's head in the outward orifice of the womb. This done the membranes or skins break, the water issues forth, and the child pressed forward by the mother, and its own strength, follows with his head foremost, till it quite disentangles itself from the womb.

This is the true and natural birth or way of delivery. Sometimes it happens that though the child's head appears, yet the unusual bulk of its shoulders, makes it stick in the passages, and prevents its delivery: in this case the man-midwife or midwife must proceed with great caution; and endeavour, whilst the pains press the child forward, to help its coming forth, by laying both hands on the head, below the ears, and so endeavour to draw it out in a direct line. In case the midwife dreads the hurting of the child, let her put both hands to the child's neck, and thus perform the delivery without delay.

I say without delay, because, I know by experience, that the womb after the head of the child was passed, has so closely enveloped the rest of the body, that without an immediate delivery, the child must have been choaked. To prevent this, you must let your finger slide

in gently betwixt the *labia* or edge of the orifice of the womb and the neck of the child, and thus, by stretching the orifice, further the birth of the child. I remember that in the hospital of Paris, several children were thus lost by the neglect of some young midwives; the same I have observed in other places through the infirmity of some aged midwives, who tho' otherwise expert enough, wanted strength to bring the child, under these circumstances, into the world in due time. Of this I saw an instance a few years ago, where the midwife had spent a whole hour in delivering the child after the head appeared, but for want of strength, not being able to encompass the matter, the child was choaked before I could be called: whence it is evident, that a midwife ought to be of a middle age, because the young ones want care and prudence, and the old ones want strength.

But though the child was dead, I proceeded in the delivery for the preservation of the mother, who without it would have been in imminent danger of a dangerous sickness or death itself. I found the child so riveted in the womb, that I had occasion for all my strength to bring it into the world, which I did boldly, having no other care to take but for the mother, which must not be neglected in these difficult cases, there being too many instances, that the urinal passage and the  
gut



gut have been torn, to the great detriment of the child-bearing women, in evacuating their urine and excrements. After the birth of the child, you must also not neglect the bringing forth of the after-burthen, without which the woman would be subject to very dangerous symptoms.

In case you find the after-burthen stick close to the womb, you must endeavour to loosen the same: to effect this, twist the navel-string twice or thrice about the fingers of your left hand, and with the fingers of your right (after they have been well greased with oil or fresh butter) slide gently along the navel-string into the womb, taking especial care not to hurt the orifice of the womb (which is very tender at that time) and at the same time to keep close to the string which leads to the after-burthen; when you must endeavour to reach the undermost part, and with your fingers to separate it from the womb gently and gradually, as we do with the pulp of a China orange from the outward rind; and the after-burthen once loosened, will follow without difficulty by pulling only the navel-string. This ought to be done with all possible expedition for fear the womb should close up, because then it will be a difficult task to reach the after-burthen with your fingers, and consequently to loosen it; but in case the same separates itself without trouble, the midwife need only draw it out

gently by the navel-string twisted round the fingers of her left hand, as we told you before.

This done, the next thing that falls under your consideration, is, whether the membranes which enclosed the water and the child in the womb, are come forth along with the after-burthen, for fear if all or any considerable part of them should be left behind, it should obstruct the orifices of the vessels of the womb. However, if only some slender part should stay behind, you need not be very solicitous upon that score, because daily experience has convinced us that the same are easily carried off with the purgations, without any farther danger. I must give you this for a caution, that when you pull out the after-burthen by the navel-string, you must do it gently, for fear in case it should stick too close to the womb, you should turn it outward, a thing that has proved fatal to many women. The mother being safely delivered of the child and after-burthen, if you find little or no blood to issue from the womb, it is to be considered whether the same is not coagulated in the womb, or the neck thereof, which sending forth pernicious vapours to the head, occasions *lipothymies*, or swooning fits. In this case the midwife must, without delay, put her hand gently up to the bottom of the womb, to remove the coagulated blood, which done, the before-mentioned symptoms cease immediately,

mediately, which otherwise might prove fatal to the woman. If the blood issues in too great a quantity, the same owes also frequently its origin to a mass of coagulated blood, which being removed in the before-mentioned manner, before the closing up of the womb, the flux ceases.

The woman being recovered out of her swooning-fits, she must be kept very quiet, without applying unto her any other remedy, (not so much as a clyster) at first, except some broth, and that not much at a time. In case the blood continues to flow beyond measure, you must put into the privy parts cloths dipped in water and vinegar, and apply the same also to the hips, or a plaister made of the white of an egg, Bole-Armoniac, water, and vinegar, well mixt together. The country people make use of yarn dipped in water and vinegar. You must let the child-bed woman lay very low with her head, giving her no other food, but a moderate quantity of spoon-meat, because the stomach being filled with vapours and winds, would be overcharged with solid food. The immoderate flux of the blood being allayed, and the patient recovered out of her swooning-fits, you may, in twenty-four hours after, apply a clyster of mallows, althea, violet-leaves, the pellitory of the wall, and linseed, boiled only in a small quantity of water ; the same you may repeat mornings and evenings, with  
this



this difference only, that in those to be used in the morning, you may dissolve three ounces of honey, and add to those at night a handful of the best wheaten flour boiled in water. Stronger clysters are not to be made use of, unless in case of necessity, and then not without the advice of a physician.

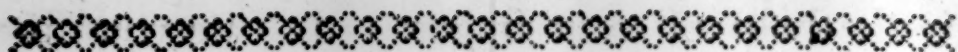
In case the patient complains of excessive pains in the belly, you must add to the clyster in the evening, an ounce of oil of sweet almonds; you may also, instead of this decoction, make a clyster only of whey, with good success. If you find the belly bloated and full of pain, which proceeds from winds, you must make use of the following fomentation.

Take the leaves of mallows, althea, of violet leaves, the pellitory of the wall, wormwood, motherwort, mercurial, the flowers of camomile and melilot, and linseeds; boil them altogether in fair water, and apply them thus to the lower region of the belly, or else cloths dipped in the decoction as hot as the patient is able to bear it; and renew it as often as it cools.

In case the purgations of the blood are stopped after the delivery of the woman, which sending up nauseous and pernicious vapours to the head, cause violent pains there, you must apply the following injection into the womb.

Take

Take barley, the herb of arthemisia, motherwort, wormwood, and melilot, boil them in fair water, and make frequent injections : you may also open a vein, and use other remedies, according to the direction of a physician. In case you find some inward parts bruised or hurt during the woman's hard labour, you may make use of the decoction of barley and chervil, and after the purgation ceases, add to it one or two of the *radix lymphit.* by way of fomentation, adding two ounces of honey of roses to each pint of the decoction.



## C H A P. II.

*What Method is to be observed in case of Miscarriages, or when a Woman is delivered before her Time.*

**I**F a woman, after having lost her monthly times about two months and a half, is seized with a violent flux of blood and pains, the best way is to have a little patience, to see whether the same is not occasioned by a false conception, which commonly discovers itself about this time. When the flux ceases, it is a sign that the conception is loosened, and may soon be expelled by a clyster, without any great trouble to the woman. But in case the flux continues, you must open a vein in the arm.

This kind of false conception is a membranous substance, of the bigness of a hen's egg, filled with water ; whereas a true conception contains within its membranous oval body, a whitish substance, not unlike a silk-worm, wherein you may plainly distinguish the head and face, with two small specks, no bigger than a pin's head. This conception, whether a true or false one, being expelled, the flooding of the blood ceases immediately ; but in  
case



case the same continues, and the delivery is checked, you must endeavour to bring it out by the help of your fingers. In case you discover by its scent that it begins to putrify, you must make use of the before prescribed injection in the womb, mixt with two ounces of sugar.

If a woman is seized in the third, fourth, or fifth month of her being with child, with an immoderate flux of blood, she must keep her bed, and (with the advice of a physician) let blood twice or thrice in the arm; and if notwithstanding this the flux continues, and she evacuates clods of coagulated blood, you must expect nothing else but a miscarriage. This embryo is seldom bigger than a new-born kitten. In this case you need not be very solicitous about the after-burthen, though the same exceeds the embryo in bigness, because it often remains behind two, three, four, and sometimes more days, and at last is soon expelled by a clyster, it being to be observed, that the after-burthen will remain uncorrupted six days, or longer, in the womb of a woman of a good habit of body. But in case you find any symptoms of a fever, you had best take the advice of a physician, whether you shall open a vein in the arm or foot.

Women under these circumstances are often affected with a pain in their breasts, proceeding from the defluxion of the milk thither,  
and

and the stopping of the flux of the blood. To prevent this, you must open a vein in the arm next to that side where you are most sensible of the defluxion ; for in case you should let blood in the foot, you would draw these defluxions to the womb. However, these symptoms are not very frequent, and happen most commonly to women only of a melancholy disposition.

In case the flood of the blood continues with such violence as to put the woman in danger of her life, after she has been with child for several months, and finds the usual signs and symptoms of travail, you must attempt the delivery, as the only means to save both the mother and child.

The man-midwife therefore, or midwife, having greased their hands all over with oil, or fresh butter, must endeavour to bring in one finger to the inward orifice of the womb, which, if you find soft and thin, you may proceed in your work, but if otherwise, you must have patience till you find it opened ; then you must put in one finger first, afterwards a second, and then a third, which you must strive to extend or open by degrees, as we do with the screw, called the *speculum matricis*, in order to open successively the innermost orifice of the womb, and open a way for the whole hand to reach within the womb itself, where feeling the membranes that enclose the child, you must pinch them thro' with the extremity  
of

of your fingers, (which you may easily do) and putting your hand to the bare child, take hold, if possible, of the feet (notwithstanding some of the other parts should first offer themselves) and the same being brought out, baptize them immediately with fair water, saying these words, *Child, I baptize thee (if alive) in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost*; which done, proceed in the most convenient way of delivering the woman. In case the child comes wrong, and the flood continues; in case the head cannot pass by reason of its bulk, neither can you come at it to turn it, you must consider whether the child be dead or alive, or whether the mother, as well as the child, are in danger of their lives; you must then have recourse to manual operation, and endeavour to bring forth the child with the help of a hook; with this proviso, however, not to proceed to this operation before all other means have been tried in vain, and that you are assured that the child is dead, and the mother in imminent danger; without these two circumstances, you ought never to proceed to this operation.

After mature consideration, and taking due care for the patient's soul, the man-midwife must thrust his left hand into the *vagina*, sheath, or entrance, and so further in to the neck of the womb, putting his hand betwixt that and the head of the child (supposing it sticks by reason of the bulk of the head) and  
with



with a syringe or any other means, spout some water upon the head, to serve instead of baptism in such an emergency. This done, the man-midwife, with the consent of the woman and her husband, may proceed in his work, and with his right hand bring the hook, with the pointed end forwards, along the palm of his left hand (in the *vagina*, or entrance of the womb) to the extremities of his fingers, where they touch the child's head, and by this means fasten the hook into one part or other of the head, as it may be done with most conveniency ; for, considering that it is not in the man-midwife's power at all times to fasten the hook where he pleases, he must do as well as he can, but endeavour always to fix it in the hindmost part of the head. After you have taken sure hold with the hook, you must pull on, and draw it towards you with the right hand, and guide it with the left ; and in case the bone where the hook is fixed should break, as it often happens, you must endeavour to fasten it again in another part of the head, and so pull it out in a strait line, and afterwards pull out the rest of the body with the help of both your hands. If the head is of so extraordinary a bigness, as to require more than ordinary strength to pull it out, I can give you no better advice, than to follow the same method I made use of in such a case, in the hospital of Paris in 1659, in the presence of the physicians of the hospital,

and

and Mr. Castagnet, my brother surgeon. For, being all agreed in opinion that the child was dead, I took a hook of eight or ten inches long, and putting the same along my left hand, fastened it within the seam of the skull. After the woman was delivered, we found some parts of the child putrify'd, so that without this operation, the woman must infallibly have died, it being our opinion before, that there was but slender hopes of her life.

Upon this occasion, I would admonish all men-midwives, to examine and duly represent the danger of the patient to the standers by, as they tender their reputation, it being certain that such like operations as this cannot be performed without great violence, for either the hook or the bones of the child's head, which are often pointed and as sharp as a razor, may easily wound the womb; therefore a man-midwife ought to act with great circumspection in such a case, and to be careful in the removing of these bones, for fear of wounding the bladder or great gut. For which purpose, after you have well paired your nails, you must with your fingers separate and take out the broken bones, so as not to wound the *vagina* or entrance, or the bladder, which otherwise prove the cause of dangerous symptoms. After you have cleared the passage of all the morsels of bones, you must take hold with one hand, on the skin of the child's head, whilst

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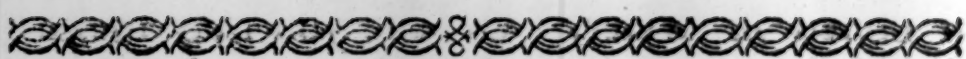
with

with the other you take it under the armpits, and so draw it out; but if you can turn the child so as to lay hold of the feet, it is much better, that being the safest way both for the mother and child.

These beforementioned symptoms frequently happen to women at the first time of their lying-in, by reason of the straitness of these parts. The cause thereof also often depends on the weakness of the child, which not being able to further its birth, produces a tedious and heavy labour, and sometimes convulsions in the mother. After such a labour wherein the privy parts of the woman have been bruised by the hook or otherwise, you must let the woman rest at least for twelve hours to recover her strength, after which you may bathe or foment the affected parts, with a decoction made of fair water, of barley and chervil, a handful each. If you find any signs of putrefaction (as it often happens) you may without fear rub the corrupted parts very well with sea water; and in case that proves insufficient, you must boil two ounces of the round Aristolochy-root cut in slices in a pint of white wine, to the remnant of two thirds, and add to it a little sugar; with this decoction you must bathe your patient eight or ten times in twenty-four hours. Women after such a labour, being sometimes afflicted with a looseness and a fever, you must apply the following clyster; wormwood, motherwort, flowers of camomil and melilot,



melilot, the seed of coriander, of each a handful boiled in water. Or else you may make use of the decoction of mallows, althea, violet leaves, fenecion, and the tops of white poppies, without honey. You must constantly ply the patient with such like clysters, which you may prepare also only of whey without honey, or make use of fine wheaten-flower boil'd with water and the yolks of eggs, or of the decoction of a sheep's-head with the tops of white poppies, according to the direction of your physician.



## C H A P. III.

*What Method is to be taken in Case the Child presents its Face in Labour.*

**W**Henever the child comes with the face foremost, you may look upon it as not much receding from a natural birth, which however must be managed with a great deal of tenderness and circumspection, by reason of its dangerous consequences: for, if the man-midwife or midwife goes about to promote the birth by the help of their fingers, it often happens that they spoil one, if not both the eyes of the child. To avoid this, you must with your fingers, very gently discover what part of the face offers itself first to your touch, whether the mouth, the nose, the eyes, the forehead or chin; but take this for a general rule, that, if you find the face foremost, to have patience, and not to be too busy with your fingers, unless it be to anoint the passage with fresh butter, to render it the more slippery, and consequently the more easy for the child. For in this case the fingers do more harm than good, both to the mother and child, and prove more troublesome than the labour itself, which differs but very little from a natural travail,

vail, except that the face of the child commonly appears black, which is easily removed by applying a mixture of red wine, oil of sweet almonds, and hypericon ; in this you may dip a thin cloth, and lay it to the face ; but have a care not to touch the eyes, for fear of making them itch. This delivery is very troublesome to the woman, because the privy parts are more extended in this than in any other birth. As for the after-burthen, the same must be brought forth by the same method as has been described before, only take care not to pull with too much violence by the navel-string, for fear the same should break off close to the after-burthen, and so prove of dangerous consequence. I knew a certain taylor's wife, who had the bottom of the womb pulled quite to the orifice by an unskilful midwife, who looking upon the after-burthen, and finding part of the membranes wanting, put her hand again into the orifice of the womb, where finding the bottom of the womb inverted, and mistaking the same for a mole or superfetation, continued pulling with all her strength, till finding the woman ready to swoon by the excessive flooding, she sends for me ; I being immediately convinced how the matter stood, reduced the womb to its natural position, and the woman recovered from her swooning fits ; but being afterwards seized with an inflammation of those parts, died not many days after ; I believe she might have



been saved had the womb been restored immediately.

Wherefore in case it happens that some part of the membranes belonging to the after-burthen remain behind, the midwife need not be very anxious upon that score, provided the flooding continues, and is not stopt by clods of blood, or the remaining pieces of the membranes : in such a case you must, as gently as possibly you can, search for them at the bottom of the womb, and if you find them beyond your reach, apply the following clyster :

Mallows, marsh-mallows, pellitory of the wall, linseed, a handful of each, boil them in fair water ; you may also add a handful of wild cucumbers ; add to the decoction three ounces of honey, the same quantity of oil of olives, of the double catholicon and rhubarb an ounce of each. You may also, with the advice of her physician or man-midwife, put some juice of oranges in her broths.



## C H A P. IV.

*What Method is to be taken when the Feet of the Child, or when the Buttocks come foremost.*

**I**F the feet of the child come foremost, you must take care to baptize them immediately, which done search the inward orifice of the womb, which if you find thick and not open as yet, you must not be too hasty, nor hazard any violent delivery of the child, but stay till the womb is sufficiently opened to afford a passage for the birth. I will not enlarge further upon this head at present, because I shall have occasion to say more of it in the following observations, as likewise of the other, when the buttocks of the child come foremost; which, besides the natural shape of those parts, discovers itself after the breaking of the membranes, and the voiding of the water, by a certain black excrement (call'd by the vulgar sort, pitch, and by the Greeks, *Meconium*) being in effect nothing else than the natural gross excrement of the guts. In such a case as this, you must not be impatient, for though the labour proceeds very slow, yet it is not much more difficult than a natural birth: whence it is that our midwives

say by way of proverb, *That where the buttocks can pass, the head will follow of course.* The position of the child in this case is doubled, with his thighs upon the belly, and the passage being once opened for the buttocks by the reiterated pains, the head follows without much trouble. You must take hold of the feet (as soon as they come out) and afterwards of the shoulders and head.



## C H A P. V.

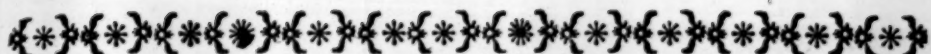
*What is to be done if the Hand or Arm comes first.*

**I**F the hand comes first, you must endeavour to push it back again; but in case you find the inward orifice of the womb neither sufficiently opened, nor soft enough, you must keep the hand of the child so long in the neck of the womb, till you find the opening wide enough to afford a passage for the hand of the man-midwife or midwife, in order to turn the child. In case the arm of the child comes forth beyond the neck of the womb, you must wrap the same up immediately in a warm cloth dipped in warm red wine, (after you have baptized it) and then endeavour to reduce it within the neck of the womb.

But if you find no possibility of bringing it back, and yet the womb sufficiently open, you must endeavour to get your hand along the arm of the child, and its body to the thighs, and so to the feet, in order to draw them out of the womb, which, if you are able to effect, is the most secure way; but if not, you must bring out the foot and leg you have taken hold of first, which as it comes forward, the arm draws backwards, the other foot lying close to the child's belly, after the

same manner, as when the child is born with the buttocks foremost.

So soon as one or both the feet are come forth, you must wrap them in a cloth, for your hands being greasy they might slip into the womb again: afterwards you must take care first of the shoulders, and then of the head, and if you find the last to stick, you must convey your fingers into the child's mouth, and endeavour to draw it out thus gently, laying your other hand in its neck, yet so as to be very careful not to choak the child, or pull the trunk of the body from the head; which last if it should happen (as it will sometimes) you must incessantly bring your hand forward to the bottom of the womb (without pulling it out before) for in case the orifice of the womb should close, you would find it a hard task to bring your hand into it. But after you have brought it in, you must fix a hook into the head, and so endeavour to draw it out as gently as possibly you can.



## C H A P. VI.

*What Method is to be followed, in case divers  
Parts of the Child come forth at once.*

**I**F the navel-string comes first, you must endeavour to keep it inward, after you have fomented the same with a warm cloth dipped in warm wine. The danger in this case is, that unless the child is born soon after, it is choaked by the string in its passage. But in case the child comes with the belly foremost, and the navel-string appears, you must take the first opportunity of turning the child, as is usual in such cases where the child does not come forth according to the usual course of nature. If the shoulder comes foremost, you must proceed according to the instructions I have given you in the following observations. If one foot and the head should come at once, you must proceed with great circumspection; for if the head opens the passage and advances most, you must keep back the foot, and promote the coming forth of the head as the pains encrease. But for the further particulars hereof, I will refer myself to the ensuing observations.

OBSER-





## OBSERVATION I.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Buttocks  
foremost.*

**O**CTOBER the 7th, 1664, I delivered a gentlewoman in Cross-street near St. James's church. I found her excessive weak, the membranes broken, the water gone, and the pains decreasing. Having greased my fingers with fresh butter, I searched the womb, by bringing my fingers along the neck of it, and finding the child coming with the buttocks foremost, I anointed my hand all over, and laying the woman cross the bed, ordered a woman on each side to take hold of her knees and legs, and a third to hold her shoulders and head: this being the most convenient posture to deliver a woman in hard labour. This done I brought my hand into the womb, where meeting with the child's buttocks, I guided my hand along the *anus*, and so along the thighs to the foot; I took hold of it and brought it out, my hands being besmeared with the black excrements I mentioned before; I pulled out the feet with the help of some warm cloaths wrapt about them,

them, for fear they should slip out of my hands. Having drawn it out to the shoulders, with singular care to save the arms from being hurt, I put my left hand on the neck, and the right upon the breast, but the child stopping at the *os sacrum*, I was forced to put my fingers in its mouth; which succeeded according to expectation, for the child was born alive, and the mother did very well.



## OBSERVATION II.

*The Delivery of a Woman afflicted with an excessive flooding.*

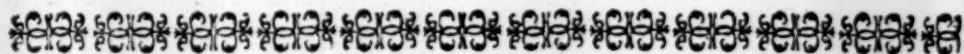
OCTOBER 9th, 1664, I was sent for to a gentlewoman who reckoned to have been big with child near eight months; I found her excessive weak, so as to be scarce able to speak, and much dejected, having been afflicted with a continued violent flux of blood for eight days. I asked the midwife what remedies she had made use of, who told me that she proposed several things, but thus were not accepted of by the patient, who being now in imminent danger of perishing by her own obstinancy, sent for a priest, who having given her the eucharist, and extreme unction, I told her spouse, that the only way to save her life, was  
to

to deliver her immediately, though after all I would not engage for her life, yet assuring him that I had saved divers women in the same condition in the hospital of Paris: he begged of me to try my utmost skill, which I being unwilling to comply with, without the advice of a physician, they sent a coach for Dr. Brayer, but it being late at night, he refused to come, yet sent me an answer to the letter I had writ to him, leaving the whole management of the matter to my discretion, of which he hoped to see the issue the next day.

At the encouragement of the physician, having anointed my fingers and hand with fresh butter, I put it into the neck of the womb, whence I brought forth many clods of coagulated blood, and coming to the inward orifice, I found the same opened to the bigness of a French crown piece, and of the thickness only of a twelfth part of an inch. Thus entering further with my fingers, I perceived a spongy substance, which at first I mistook for clods of blood, but soon found it to be the *placentæ uterina*, which having separated gently from the womb, I broke the membranes which were full of water: after I had once taken hold of the child's feet, I delivered the woman, but the child was dead. We ordered the child-bed-woman strengthening medicines, which were approved the next morning by Dr. Brayer, who prescribed also a nourishing diet and emollient clysters, by the help where-  
of



of the woman was restored to her former health, except that for a considerable time after she was afflicted with violent pains in the head; it being rarely seen that women escape these pains after such a delivery, which, without the singular application of Dr. Brayer, would have proved of much worse consequence.



### OBSERVATION III.

*The Delivery of a Woman at the beginning of the Eighth Month, who died afterwards of the Small Pox.*

THE 16th of October, 1664, I was sent for to a gentlewoman, who at the beginning of the eighth month of her being with child, being seized with a most violent pain in her hips, I searched her, but found no symptoms of an approaching labour: I apply'd her a clyster, and by the advice of her physician, she was let blood, but without any effect. The next day phlebotomy was administred again, which produced so good an effect, that the pains increasing, she was happily delivered of a son, who was baptized in the church of St. Nicholas: but on the fourth day after her delivery, the pain returned, and on a sudden the small pox appeared, and increased so  
pro-

prodigiously, that her head swelled to a vast bigness, and in a few days put an end to her life. I thought fit to insert this observation, to serve as a warning to women in child-bed, to beware of the small pox as of the plague itself.



#### OBSERVATION IV.

*The Delivery of a Child with one Arm foremost.*

THE 2d of November 1664, being sent for to a gentlewoman in the new street of St. Mederick, I found the arm of the child without the womb: having anointed my hand with fresh butter, and baptized the arm, I endeavoured to reduce it into the womb, but in vain, for being much swelled within the neck of the womb, I could not pursue my design for fear of breaking it. I therefore put my hand along the arm of the child into the womb, but not without great difficulty and pain to myself and the woman, by reason of the swelling of the arm. This occasioned a sudden accident, for while I was searching for the feet, and endeavouring to turn the child, my hand was seized with such  
a be-

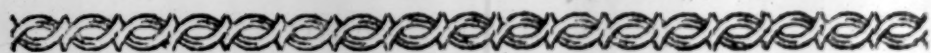
a benumbedness, that I had not the least motion left in my fingers ; which being occasioned by the straitness of the innermost orifice of the womb, I was forced to have a little patience, till the orifice being somewhat dilated, and a free passage afforded to the spirits (as we see in the loosening of a band about our arm) the natural motion returned by degrees ; so moving forward gently, I took hold of the feet, and as these were drawn forward, the arm and hand naturally was drawn inward again ; I observed the child's heels turned towards the great gut, and the toes to the bladder, which made me turn it, for fear it should in its passage stick at the *os sacrum*, and choak the child ; tho' at the same time I am sensible, it is not always in the power of a man-midwife to turn the child.

This being of an extraordinary bigness, did stick in the passage at the shoulders, but I loosened the same by bringing my fingers along both arms above the shoulders ; which done, I put my left hand to the breast to uphold it, and my right to the neck to bring it out with the more strength. The child proved so bulky, that the midwife was forced to assist me in holding it up, and I drew it forward in a strait line with all the skill and strength I was master of, but without success, which obliged me to put two of my fingers of the left hand into the child's mouth, and to take hold of the under jaw-bones, before I could



accomplish the delivery of the child, which proved a lusty daughter.

Finding the after-burthen to remain close to the womb, I brought my right hand along the navel-string (fastened round the fingers of my left) to the bottom of the womb, and separating the same from the womb, she followed without any difficulty; she had but little flooding at first, but by the help of two ounces of the best sallad oil, mixed with a little sugar, and the use of some good broth, it succeeded much better afterwards. We also order'd her every morning and evening a clyster of mallows, althea, violet-leaves, pellitory of the wall, linseed, and three ounces of honey, sometimes with and sometimes without the honey, by turns.



## O B S E R V A T I O N    V.

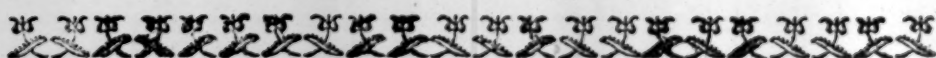
*The Delivery of a Child with the Elbow foremost.*

THE 16th of November 1664, I was called to a woman in the Helmet-street; I found the elbow without the exterior or outward orifice of the womb; but for fear of mistaking one of the knees for the elbow, I brought

brought my hand within the inward orifice, when discovering the remaining part of the arm, I reduced it backwards gently, and the water being not quite discharged out of the membranes, the moistness of the parts stood me in good stead, in turning of the child. This done I took hold of the feet, and having brought them to the outward orifice, I baptized them, and wrapping them in warm linnen cloths, pull'd the child (which was very lusty and lively) towards me in a direct line, to the shoulders, taking care to bring out also the arms, which did not follow immediately. This done, I put my left hand to its neck, and my right to the breast, and thus making use of one or the other as occasion required, the head followed without opposition, the passages being sufficiently opened before.

But coming to the after-burthen, I found the same fastned to the womb, so that I was forced to separate the same by bringing my right hand along the navel-string to the bottom of the womb, whilst I held the string with my left. In case the after-burthen is not so closely fixt to the womb, you may spare this trouble to the woman, for it will follow by only pulling the navel-string gently and by degrees; I say gently, for fear of inverting the womb, and drawing it along with the string: of which more hereafter in the 76th observation.

After the woman was delivered, I ordered her to be well rubbed and covered with hot cloths ; because she had been sensible of an excessive cold from the beginning of her labour, a thing very usual, and the common fore-runner of the approaching travail. I also ordered a warm cloth to be put into her privities, to keep out the cold air, which otherwise often stops the necessary flooding or after-purgations, bloats the womb, and causes other troublesome symptoms : but care must be taken not to stop up the orifice of the womb, which would hinder the flooding, and consequently occasion swooning fits in the woman, by the vapours of the putrify'd blood : however our woman was very successful in her purgations.



## OBSERVATION VI.

*The Delivery of a Child, the Head whereof stuck in the Womb after the coming forth of the whole Body.*

THE 20th of July 1665, I was sent for to a woman in White-Bread-street. I found the whole body of the child come forth to the neck, which was so closely fixt within the inward orifice of the womb, that the child was choak'd,



choak'd, and quite dead when I came. The midwife had done her duty to accomplish the delivery, which had a promising aspect at first, but finding her strength insufficient, this, together with her being upbraided by the standers by, had put her into such a consternation, that she scarce knew what she did; the woman's husband threatening to kill her. I told them that these were wrong methods to be used with a man-widwife or midwife whilst they were employed in such dangerous cases. The child being turn'd quite black, I slip't the fingers of my left hand along the neck of the womb, and finding the innermost orifice (where the child stuck) settled very low, I with much ado got my fingers within it, which done I widened the orifice by degrees, at the same time upholding the breast of the child with the same hand. The face of the child being towards the guts, I put my right hand to the neck, drawing gently in a strait line, for fear of pulling the womb out together with the head of the child.

I also ordered the midwife and the nurse to lift up the woman, by the help of a doubled table-cloth put under her buttocks; in this posture I advanced in my work (which I could not do before) and fastning my fingers in the ear and mouth, I accomplished the delivery, being very well satisfied beforehand, that there were not the least signs of life in the child. This way is very useful,

and the most commodious in all hard labours.

Whilst I was getting out the after-burthen, I found some part of it remaining behind close to the womb, which I was forced to loosen with my hand sliding gently along the navel-string, and to bring it out; for in case any considerable part thereof should stay behind, it would cause dangerous symptoms to the woman, which you may prevent, by bringing forth the same with the help of your hand, which may be brought into the womb gently (even if it should close up after the birth) provided you proceed gradually: for your hand being less than the child, the parts slippery, and for the most part benumbed, you may perform this task without much difficulty and pain. But have a care your nails be very well pair'd, and that the woman does not strain or press downwards, which may occasion a bearing down of the womb, or at least a relaxation.



## OBSERVATION VII.

*The Delivery of a Child offering itself with  
the upper Part of the Shoulder foremost.*

**T**HE 4th of August 1665, being called to a woman in labour in the Dolphin-street, the midwife told me, I was likely to meet with a difficult task, which proved true in the event. The woman complained of excessive pains; and the water contained in the membranes, was voided before. The poor woman declared, that she had never felt such pains in all her life. At which I was not much surprized, considering it was her first child, the delivery of which proves generally more difficult than in other women, whose parts are already extended by preceding births.

However I brought in my finger along the neck of the womb, which, together with the inward orifice, I found quite stopp'd up with the shoulder of the child; but for fear of a mistake, I let my fingers go deeper within the orifice (after I had sufficiently greased them with oil of sweet almonds) where I could plainly distinguish the neck, the collar-bone,



the shoulder-blade, and the arm of the child. Finding it in this posture, I represented the danger both of the child and the woman to her friends, who desired me to do my utmost, and what I judged most convenient in relieving the woman (which was always to be first regarded) with as much speed as possibly could be.

I went then to work, and bringing my hand as gently as could be done to the bottom of the womb, I found the child sunk very deep, which made me endeavour to raise it, first by disentangling the arm and head, which stuck in the passage together with the shoulder; but finding this impracticable for fear of hurting the mother, I made shift to bring out the arm, which I baptized: then guiding my hand along the arm of the child into the womb, and so farther along its body, thighs and legs, in search of the feet, I at last got hold of them; and as I drew them towards me, the arms receded back by degrees into the place where the feet had been before; but all this being not to be done without some violence, the child was in imminent danger of its life: nothing being more frequent than to see the poor babes perish during the hardships of labour.

But to return to ours. Having taken all possible care to turn its toes towards the guts, and the heels towards the bladder, I pull'd it out to the ancles, and part of the rest of the  
body

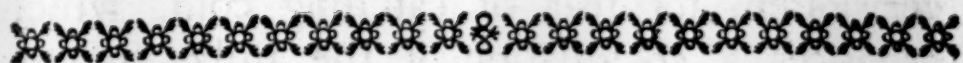
body soon after : then advancing with my hand to the shoulders, and having brought out the arms, I put my left hand to its breast, and the right to its neck, which succeeded so well, that the child came into the world without being mangled in the least. The after-burthen following immediately : I rubbed the child all over with cloths dipped in warm wine, mixt with some fresh butter, to refresh its spirits and natural heat ; for which purpose I also put some bruised onions to its nostrils, and spouted a little wine into the mouth, nostrils, eyes, and ears, with so good success, that the child was entirely revived for that time, but died not long after, being quite spent during the labour ; the more, because I took all the care I could not to hurt the mother.

The woman I ordered two ounces of syrup of maiden-hair, mixed with the juice of three or four oranges, and an ounce of oil of sweet almonds, to promote the flooding ; and two hours after she took a cup of broth. The next day we applied a clyster of the decoction of the leaves of mallows, althea, of violets, and pellitory of the wall, a handful each, mixed with three ounces of honey ; which being repeated the following days, she began to mend apace ; but being troubled with the milk-fever (owing its origin to the great quantity of milk flowing to the breasts), we checked the same by applying quilts of cotton upon

upon the breasts, which need not be changed very often, for fear of catching cold, which produces a coagulation of the milk, inflammations, and exulcerations in the breasts, which are generally prevented by keeping them well covered. After the second day, we fomented the privy-parts with a decoction of barley and chervil, which was reiterated every sixth hour; and every third hour she took a little chicken-broth, with some veal and a little mutton boiled in it. On the seventh day we allowed her some toasted bread in her broth, by which means she recovered beyond expectation, considering her late hardships; it being certain, that such deliveries as these ought to be looked upon as in a manner miraculous, and wrought by the hands of Providence.

OBSER-





## OBSERVATION VIII.

*The Delivery of Twins, one having its right Thigh cross the left, and the other its Feet strait.*

THE 19th of August, being sent for to a gentlewoman in labour, I found the midwife, who was very old, quite amazed at the bulk of the woman's belly, which was very excessive. I searched her, and finding the water already gone, began to suspect there were no less than two children. The first thing that presented itself, was an arm of a child, which I endeavouring to thrust backward, but in vain, I guided my hand gently along the arm and the child's body to the feet, one of which I took hold of, and drawing it out of the womb, the child turned, and the arm receded backwards as the leg came forth to the knee. Then I found the right foot to lay cross the middle of the outside of the left thigh, in the inward orifice of the womb. This made me stop, for fear of breaking the bone of that leg, if I had been too hasty; so guiding my hand as gently as could be along the leg (come out before) and thigh, I removed the foot that lay across  
thence,

thence, and so out of the womb, till I could pull it out by both the feet together, a thing constantly to be observed in our practice. For the rest, it is to be observed, that generally speaking, you need not be very solicitous to search for the other leg, after the coming out of the first. For I have frequently observed in the many deliveries made in our hospital of Paris, 1660, 1663, by Mrs. Moreau and Mrs. France, both very experienced midwives, that whenever one of the child's legs is come out, they never search after the other, (unless in such cases as this) it being certain, that the woman is thus delivered with much less pain, than when you put your hand so often within the womb, and the child is also not put to so much hardship: whereof more anon, when we shall have occasion to speak of the *child's coming with its fundament foremost*.

Both the legs of the child being come out, I wrapt them in soft cloths, and so drew out the whole body, which followed without much difficulty, except that it did stick a little at the head; but laying one of my hands upon the breast, and the other upon the neck, it succeeded very well, and proved a lusty boy. As I was busy in fetching out the after-burthen, the continuation of the pains in the woman, and the extension of the membranes pressed downwards by the water, soon convinced me, there was another child at hand. This made me tie immediately two knots on the  
the

the navel-string of the first born babe, which I cut thro' betwixt the two knots, without which the mother as well as the child would have been much impaired by the loss of blood. The knots are made by the means of a four doubled twisted yarn, having a knot on each end: this thread you must wind twice round the navel-string, and then tie very close with a knot, so as to stop the passage of the blood, for in case it should loosen, it may endanger the life of the child.

If you find more than one child, you must infallibly take care to tie these knots in two places in the navel-string, viz. one above two inches breadth above the navel of the child, and the other two inches farther towards that part of the navel-string which is fastened to the after-burthen, cutting afterwards the same betwixt both these knots, to stop the effusion of blood, and this must be done before you fetch out the after-burthen. Both these knots are intended for the same purpose, the first to prevent the loss of blood in the child, which would occasion its death, whereof there are several instances. The second answers the same end in stopping the blood from flowing out of the other part, to the prejudice of the mother; besides that, in case of twins, the last child would be very much weakened or perhaps perish by the loss of blood, and the mother fall into swooning-fits, or be in danger of her life. There  
are



are instances enough of many women that have been lost by the cowardice of their midwives, who wanting courage to deliver the second child, have left the poor mothers destitute to their utter destruction. These two knots have also this further use, that by keeping the blood in the after-burthen, the same appears more florid to the sight.

But to return to the second child: I found the membranes swell'd by the pressing down of the water, to the bigness of a child's head, or rather like a pig's bladder filled with water. These being born down below both the orifices of the womb, I opened the same with a pin, contrary to the opinion of many midwives, who commonly make use of a grain of salt to make an opening; for these membranes have little or no sense; and it is so far from being dangerous to open the same after they are born out or into the passage or *vagina*, that in many difficult cases we open them without fear within the womb itself, which by my own reiterated experience, I have found so advantageous to the woman, that by two or three pains after such an opening, the head of the child has appear'd very forward towards a happy delivery. However this obtains not in all women, for in some the water is voided a long while before the delivery, which therefore proves more tedious.

The membranes being opened and the water gone, I laid hold of one of the feet of the  
second

second child, and having pulled it out and baptized it, I wrapt about it a linnen-cloth, because I found the whole leg covered with a kind of a whitish thick slime (of the thickness of the twelfth part of an inch) beyond what is usually observed in those cases, some whereof I had the curiosity to throw into the fire, and observed it to crack and burn like oil or grease. The thighs and legs of this child being not crossed but in their natural position, the delivery succeeded beyond expectation, all the passages being still open since the delivery of the first child. I had no sooner given it to the midwife, but going on in my work to fetch out the after-burthen, I remembered, that tho' each child is always enclosed in its peculiar membranes, yet twins have sometimes but one mother-cake or after-burthen. I drew the navel-string to try whether the after-burthen would follow without any further trouble, which succeeded according to wish, (tho' I had often experienced the contrary in our hospital) the after-burthen following without the least difficulty: One of the navel-strings of these two children was fastened to the middle of the after-burthen, the other being inserted on the edge of one and the same after-burthen.

For the rest, the flooding of the woman gave a kind appearance, and she was very careful in her diet, always squeezing the juice of half a sour orange into a cup of broth,

besides that she had a clyster every morning and evening made of the decoction of mallows, althea, and violet-leaves, with three ounces of honey in the morning, but in the evenings without it. Clysters are absolutely requisite for a woman in child-bed, at least twice a day. You must also foment the privy-parts with the decoction of barley, and chervil, as has been mentioned before.



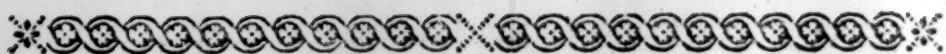
## O B S E R V A T I O N IX.

### *Concerning the Delivery of Twins.*

**T**HE 22d of October 1665, I delivered a woman of two children. Her belly appearing excessive big, I suspected the thing as it happened, especially when I perceived that abundance of water had been voided already, after the opening of the membranes. I brought my hand to the very bottom of the womb, where meeting with the feet of one of the children, I brought them out, and the rest of the body following without any other obstacle, I tied the two before-mentioned knots on the navel-string, which I cut in the middle betwixt both as before; soon after I discovered the membranes of the second child



child much extended by the pressing down of the water, which being broken I began to look for the child, which appearing with its arm foremost, I put it back, and guiding my hand gently along its body, took hold of the feet, and accomplished the delivery, which was no sooner done, together with the after-burthen, but the womb closed up again in an instant. I found but one after-burthen, distinguished however in the middle by a small streak, a sign that they were two after-burthens growing close together, though their separation was scarce distinguishable. The midwife gave the mother two spoonfuls of sweet oil with sugar. I asked the midwife, *To what purpose she gave it ?* She answered, *To promote the flooding, being a common remedy among the poor people ;* and it succeeded very well in this woman.



## OBSERVATION X.

*The Delivery of a Woman whose Privities being swelled to the bigness of a Head, were scarce discernible.*

**J**ANUARY 14, 1666. A certain midwife being sent for to a woman in labour in the Puppet-street, she began to search her, but not being able to find the passage to the womb, because the privy parts were swelled to the bigness of a head, so as to have lost their natural shape, she called for a candle, and looking narrowly upon what she had not been able to discover, she judged it to be an inversion or bearing down of the whole neck of the womb, attended with a relaxation of the ligaments. But understanding that another midwife that had been call'd before her, refused to meddle in the matter, she desired further advice: whereupon I being called, I agreed with the midwife in the same opinion. I discovered a slit of the length of the 24th part of an inch, out of which issued a slimy watry liquor, which made me imagine, it was the innermost orifice of the womb. This tumour was round and even on the superficies

cies like the crown of a hat, the slit in the middle, and in the same appeared a white speck, smooth and even, and surrounded with a little hair.

I asked the patient, *Whether she had ever been delivered of a child before?* She answered, No. I further asked, *Whether during her bigness she had strained herself by hard labour, or been sensible of any sharp deflections or pains?* She replied, No: and that she did not perceive this swelling till the day before, with violent pains, and bearing downwards, and that she had tried all she knew to reduce it into its natural position. I then asked her, *Whether before marriage she had been sensible of any thing of this nature?* She told me, *That as long as she could remember, the ligaments of her womb had been subject to relaxations, but that as often as any bearing down had happened in those parts, she used to reduce them herself:* She added, *That during her being with child she had not been sensible of these relaxations before yesterday, at the same time (as she supposed with probability enough) when the first pains of her travail coming upon her, reintroduced the relaxation of these vessels and ligaments.*

Being sufficiently convinced by these circumstances, that this delivery was not likely to be performed without danger, I desired the advice of Dr. Moreau, deacon of the faculty of Paris, professor of the Royal Academy, and chief physician to the Dauphiness; of whose



ability I having had a thousand proofs before, I was very glad to be supported by his advice in so nice a point. After due examination of the matter, he judged it a dangerous case, but agreed with the midwife and myself, that the delivery (after due care taken for the woman's soul) ought by all means to be attempted.

Accordingly it was thought fit to convey a silver probe, with a round knot at the end, into the opening, whence as we told you issued the slimy liquor ; thereby to endeavour the extension or dilatation of it, till it would admit of one finger, and so gently and by degrees a second, and at last a third, whereby to endeavour its further dilatation, by forming with the fingers a kind of a *speculum matricis*, being much more natural than the iron screw. As I was altogether of the same opinion, so I represented the safety of this undertaking as consonant to the true rules of nature, when by the pains the water enclosed in the membranes, being pressed down into the inward orifice of the womb, the passage is opened for the more easy delivery of the head, and consequently of the body of the child.

Dr. Moreau agreeing with me in the same point, to work I went, but whatever pains I took, could not extend the opening beyond the bigness of a crown-piece, though I found the inward orifice of the womb not above a quarter of an inch thick ; it was then resolved to afford  
some

some respite and rest to the patient, she being much weakned with the violence of the pain, as we were not a little tired, having been constantly employed about one thing or other, from four in the morning till seven at night. Thus leaving the patient to the care of the midwife, we returned about eight, and were informed by the midwife, that there had been but a slender appearance of any true signs of a delivery, the natural parts not producing the usual effect of opening the *os sacrum*, and pressing the membranes forward, by reason of other intervening pains, occasioned perhaps by the extension of the bladder, by the urine contained therein, she having made no water for some time before.

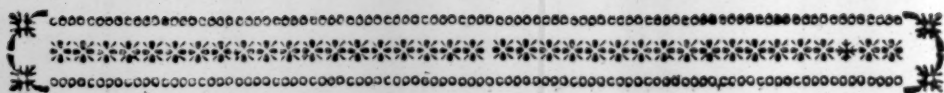
Hereupon it being once more advised by Dr. Moreau not to delay the delivery any longer, I began afresh to attempt the dilatation of the inward orifice of the womb with my fingers, which succeeded beyond hopes: I brought in two fingers (one of each hand) on the sides of the opening I had made before, which being thus dilated by degrees, I shewed Dr. Moreau what advances I had made, telling him, *That since neither the membranes, nor the head of the child could open the passage, my fingers were the only remedy we must rely upon.* Thus pressing gently forwards, and being seconded by some pains, and the utmost endeavours of the mother, I began to conceive some hopes; and in effect soon after the mem-

branes coming to break in the opening, this together with a succeeding pain, and the joint endeavours of the mother and child, produced this good effect, that in the next following pain, she was delivered of a girl. From whence it is evident how unjustly the poor midwives are sometimes censured by the standers by, as if by renting the womb of the woman with their nails, they prove often the occasion of their destruction, whereas the same ought for the most part to be attributed to the preternatural disposition of the noble parts, or some malignant corrosive humours: the most danger likely to proceed from a midwife, is, when after her coming from the delivery of an infected woman, she communicates the virulency, adhering to her fingers, to others.

Immediately after the birth of the child, I brought forth also the after-burthen, and thrusting my fist gently against the bottom of the womb, reduced the same with all the adjacent parts into their natural station and shape. This done, I put a cloth before the orifice of the womb, ordered the head of the patient to be laid very low, with a pillar rowled together betwixt and under the knees, as is usually done with child-bed women. I ordered also her breasts to be covered with a four-doubled cloth, with some cotton betwixt the pleats, to keep those parts from catching cold during her flooding. I also kept her belly and  
back



back tied by winding it up in a broad cloth, and laid upon the womb above the bladder, a triangular compress, with a four square one upon it, the better to keep those parts in their proper station, to keep them warm, and to promote the flooding. Dr. Moreau prescribed her the juice of three four oranges, mixed with two ounces of the oil of sweet almonds, and the same quantity of syrup of maiden-hair, to be taken at twice; besides emollient, cooling, and anodyne clysters, to be applied every day. The flooding appeared beyond expectation, and with such stupendous success, that on the eighth day after her delivery, I found her sitting in a chimney-corner, and she has been well ever since, (though without being with child) the daughter lived till she was two years old. I had almost forgot to tell you, that for some days we fomented her privy parts with the decoction of barley and chervil, and that after the flooding, we bathed the same parts with the water of myrrh, a powerful remedy in such cases, by reason of its astringent and cooling quality.



## OBSERVATION XI.

*The Delivery of a Child with its Right Buttock  
foremost.*

MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, 1666, being called to a gentlewoman, I found upon search, the right buttock of the child foremost. The membranes being broken before, I pushed the child gently backwards with my fingers, and guiding them along its right thigh and leg, to the foot, I pulled it out and baptized it. This done, I wrapping a cloth about the foot, the whole body followed with ease to the head, which sticking in the passage, I was forced to bring the fingers of my right hand into the child's mouth, whilst with my left, I upheld it at the breast; and this accomplished the delivery with good success, the mother finding herself very well afterwards, without any further assistance than what is usual with other women in child-bed,



## OBSERVATION XII.

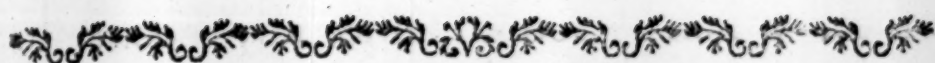
*A Delivery of a Dropsical Woman.*

**A**PRIL the 11th, 1666, I was called to a certain gentlewoman then in labour, in the street of S. Germain del' Auxerrois, not far from the New Bridge; but finding the woman afflicted with a dropfy and feverish, I desired the assistance of Dr. Matthews, a learned physician, who stayed with me during the whole delivery. This gentlewoman was not only much swelled all over the body, but had also a tumour on her belly below the navel, of the bigness of a loaf of three pounds, which seemed to be filled with a flatulent humour; the patient was much dejected (notwithstanding I did all I could to encourage her) having been told by several of her acquaintance, that she could not escape with life; thus having made provision for her soul, she gave positive orders to her servants (because she was a woman of quality) not to let either the doctor or me go out of the house, till they saw the issue of the matter.

After due search made, I told her that the child being well turned, there was great hopes  
of



of her safe delivery, and being assured at the same time by Dr. Matthews, that she had sufficient strength left, she began to conceive some hopes. The water contained within the membranes did press with such violence upon the privy parts, that they appeared as big as a child's head, and breaking soon after, she voided no less than eight pounds of water, which being followed by the child, she discharged as much more water as before. This sudden evacuation causing a great weakness as well in the mother as the child, the last was baptized immediately by Dr. Matthews, and died soon after, being as was supposed suffocated by the great quantity of water voided during the delivery of the mother. The after-burthen being likewise brought forth, the flatulent tumour below the navel vanished in a moment, as did the dropsy by degrees, by the help of the flooding and some other proper remedies prescribed by Dr. Matthews. She went abroad within fourteen days after, and spoke much in our recommendation among all her acquaintance.



## OBSERVATION XIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Belly foremost.*

THE 25th of April (being Easter-day) 1666, I was called to a gentlewoman of a very handsome aspect, in the Goldsmith's street. I was unwilling to tell her the unnatural position of the child, asking her only, *Whether she was ready to be delivered*: Whereupon she answered with a smile, *That she was sensible her pains were not strong enough as yet for a delivery*; unto which the midwife replied, *That notwithstanding this she might be delivered if she thought fit*. She began to suspect the matter, and conjured me to search her, and let her know whether the child was rightly turned or not.

I finding the child coming with the navel foremost, told her, *That the case being of dangerous consequence, I desired the advice of some other person*; but she declaring her positive resolution, of relying (next to God) upon my endeavours, and desiring me to hasten her delivery, I brought my right hand and fingers, close and strait put together, into the outward orifice

orifice of the womb, and thence to the inward orifice, which I found sufficiently opened to admit my whole hand and fingers, the most proper instruments for such an operation.

I found in the neck of the womb, a tough slime with some part of the membranes carried thither with the water, which did me great service in the ensuing delivery. I found the inward orifice of the womb opened to the bigness of the extended palm of my hand, so that my hand meeting with an easy entrance, I felt a soft substance, which by the navel-string I soon discovered to be the child's belly, and by the beating of the arteries, judged it to be still alive; I told this welcome news to the mother (to encourage her in her labour) who answered me, *That she was not solicitous for her own life, provided the child might (through God's mercy) be preserved till it could be baptized.* Which I assured her was likely to be done.

I then tried what part of the child I could lay hold on first; but found neither head nor foot; till at last lighting upon a hand, I did however not meddle with that, but guiding my hand gently along the thigh, I took hold of a foot on the right side of the womb, and brought it out, taking special care to turn the toes towards the fundament of the mother, as has been observed before. I drew the foot towards me very gently, and with a great deal of circumspection, which being baptized, I  
searched



searched after the other foot, which being also found, I put both legs together, and winding them in a fine cloth to prevent their being bruised or hurt, I pulled out the child gradually to the shoulders, which required all the strength I had (as in most other cases of this nature). But finding the orifice of the womb somewhat closed again, I was forced to put my fingers into the child's mouth to bring forth the head, though without the least violence. For putting my left hand to its breast, I supported it thus till with the right I could dilate the inward orifice, which done I put my hand to the neck, and so delivered the woman of a girl. The after-burthen following with ease; I laid the same with the navel-string to it upon the child's belly, which being extremely weak, lay extended upon a pillow before the fire, without any motion, beating of the arteries or pulse, or any other sign of life. We did all we could to revive it by wrapping it in cloaths dipt in warm wine, boiling the after-burthen in claret, holding onions to its nostrils, and spouting wine into the mouth, nose, ears and eyes, and washing the temples with the same; which at last produced this good effect, that the child recovered its spirits, and is since grown up very healthy and well to the age of seventeen years. The mother also did extraordinary well, having had several children afterwards.

OBSER-



## OBSERVATION XIV.

*Concerning an After-burthen joined close to the Substance of the Womb.*

THE first of May, 1666, I was called to a woman in the Cutler's street, to deliver her from her after-burthen joined to the substance of the womb; the midwife having in vain endeavoured its delivery. After I had greased my hands, I brought my right hand to the bottom of the womb, where I felt the after-burthen; but the navel-string being broken before, I searched on all sides with my fingers, though very gently, the innermost part of the womb, to find out in which part it was most closely joined to its substance; which having discovered, I peeled it off, beginning on the undermost part of the womb, till it dropt into my hand.

Upon this occasion I discovered the substance of the womb to be soft and membranous, of the thickness of a quarter of an inch, but somewhat thicker in that part where the after-burthen had been joined to it, the main thing that satisfied my curiosity. I separated this after-burthen from the womb, with  
the

the extremities of my fingers, beginning on the undermost part, as I told you before, just as we do loosen a paste or dough from a table or board ; which being quite loosened, I drew it out of the womb with the same extremities of my fingers ; for had it been done with the whole hand or fist, it would have created new pain and trouble to the woman. You must be careful not to leave any pieces of skin or remnants of the after-burthen in the womb, the same being attended with two dangerous symptoms.

The first is, that in case part thereof remains close to the womb, it putrifies and often degenerates into an inflammation or cancerous ulcer, and consequently kills the woman. Of this I saw an instance in our hospital in 1653, when no small contests arose betwixt the physicians of the hospital, concerning a woman that died in child-bed: for being opened by Mr. Angot, surgeon in ordinary to the hospital, and part of the after-burthen found sticking close to the womb, some of the physicians declared the same to be *the occasion of the death of the woman*. But Dr. Moreau, the elder, one of the greatest physicians of our age, replied, *That it was not sufficient, to alledge this as a cause of the death of the woman, but that an enquiry ought to be made, whether the fault was in the midwife or the ill constitution of the body of the deceased*. He ordered Mr. Angot to separate the remaining part,  
which



which he not being able to do without tearing off part of the substance of the womb, Dr. Moreau said, *I am convinced that some people are of so unfortunate a constitution, that it is impossible to expect a happy delivery in them. Those in whom the after-burthen is so closely joined to the substance of the womb, abound commonly in atrabilearious humours, by which the after-burthen is so closely joined to the womb, that it is next to an impossibility even for a man-midwife to promise a safe delivery; wherefore it is very hard to pass such severe censures upon a midwife after she has done all that lay in her power; it being certain that Nature itself, without any fault of the man-midwife or midwife, is the real occasion of the death of the patient.* Thus the reputation of the poor midwife was saved by the knowledge of this physician, who was the ornament of the faculty.

The second symptom is the excessive flux of blood that constantly attends the woman, in case any part of the after-burthen remains fix'd to the womb, the blood issuing through the opening of the vessels, inserted into the remaining part of the after-burthen; which never ceasing till that part is removed, it is sufficient alone to prove mortal. But to return to our observation. After having separated the after-burthen, I turned my hand round the inside of the womb, to feel whether there were any remnants left; when I perceived the womb to be grown already thicker and  
 2 harder,

harder, beyond what it was immediately after the separation of the after-burthen.



## OBSERVATION XV.

### *The Delivery of a Dead and Putrified Child.*

**J**UNE the 16th, 1666, I was sent for by a midwife in labour, being a woman of quick parts, and consequently sensible of her dangerous condition, which she had sufficiently discovered by the nauseous scent that adhered (upon search made by herself) to her fingers. By the circumstances she related to me, I could judge no otherwise, but that the child was dead; and finding her extremely fearful even before I touch'd her, I recommended patience to her, assuring her, *That I would use her as gently as possibly I could.*

Having conveyed my hand into the neck of the womb, I perceived the head to come foremost, but with a most abominable scent. I asked her, *How long she had to reckon?* She answered, *That she had gone full nine months, but had not felt the child stir in three months last past, and that therefore she feared the child to have been dead ever since, occasioned by the grief she conceived at the death of her husband, that hap-*  
F
penced

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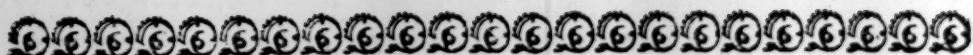
*pened about the same time*; which may serve as an undeniable instance of what we have asserted before, that a child may remain for a considerable time without being putrified in the womb. But what is most surprizing in this case, is, that tho' the child was not only dead and putrify'd, yet the mother was so very well at the time of her being with child, as to be able to go about her ordinary employments.

I had much ado to convince her, that it was better to suffer some pain at present to avoid worse evils; so that at last submitting to necessity, I brought my fingers, without any obstacle, to the inward orifice of the womb. The first thing I met with there, being the bone of the forehead, I plucked it out, all the parts of the head and the membranes being putrified to that degree, that they appeared like a white jelly, with such an intolerable scent, as was enough to suffocate one. However I made shift to bring out the rotten carcass; and it was observable, that the bones of the head were sharp and pointed like needles, which made the delivery the more tedious; for I took particular care to bring them all away, without the least detriment to the mother.

When I found the after-burthen no less putrified than the child, I judged her death to be infallible, it seeming impossible to me, that these putrified parts could remain so long in the womb without infecting the circumjacent parts. This moved me to exhort her, *To*  
*pro-*

*provide in time for her poor soul before she was rendered incapable of doing it, by the violence of the symptoms that were likely to ensue.* She was so far from hearkning to my advice, that within three hours after her delivery, being sent for by a gentlewoman then in labour, in the palace of the Louvre, she arose out of her bed, as if she had felt no pain a good while before, and walking thither on foot, stayed there all night till next morning. About 24 hours after her delivery, coming to give her a visit, I found her in bed, but eating heartily of a calve's head. I thought fit to insert these circumstances, to shew what some constitutions are able to undergo; and when I chid her for her presumption, she told me, *That hunger would make the wolf leave his nest;* for she had no less than five children to maintain; which made me believe, that God Almighty had bestowed upon her a more than ordinary vigour for her poor children's sake, for she did very well afterwards.





## OBSERVATION XVI.

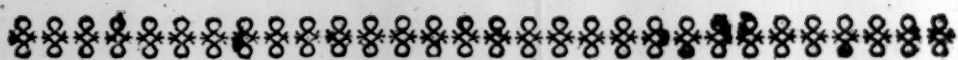
*The Delivery of a Woman whose inward Orifice  
of the Womb was torn.*

**J**ULY 4th, 1666, I was called to the assistance of a certain midwife, none of the most skilful in her profession. Being employed in bringing out the after-burthen, she had got her hand into the womb; but the same lying very low, had mistaken the inward orifice for the after-burthen; so that pulling the said orifice, instead of the after-burthen, with much violence, but little success, I was sent for to give a helping hand.

I no sooner had searched the woman, but being sensible of the error of the midwife, who was both young and unexperienced, I checked her for her negligence and ignorance, which she fully acknowledged, promising she would follow my directions hereafter in such like cases. After having brought my fingers, greased with oil of sweet almonds, into the womb, I found the inward orifice torn and scratched with her nails; but advancing forward with my hand, I separated the after-burthen, and brought it out; but fearing lest the

the damnifying of the orifice of the womb, might produce dangerous effects (as it frequently happens) we sent for Dr. Briffet, who did his utmost for the preservation of the woman, notwithstanding her poverty. We prescribed her two clysters a day, made of whey mixed with three ounces of honey, in the morning, and without it in the evening. We ordered her also the usual fomentation of the decoction of barley and chervil, which succeeded so well, that she went abroad in less than a month, but she had no children since. For fear of a putrefaction or gangreen, we ordered the following injections to be made into the privy parts.

Take of the root of the greater consolida, of the leaves of agrimony, plantain and centinodum, boil them in water for an injection. After the flooding ceased, and the milk began to appear in her breasts, we ordered an injection to be made of the round aristolochy root boiled in white wine; of which more in the 25th Observation. I have been the more circumstantial in this observation, that it might serve as a warning to the young man-midwives and midwives, to proceed gently, and with all imaginable circumspection, when they put their hands within the orifices of the womb, for fear of damnifying the same, as it happened in this case.



## OBSERVATION XVII.

*The Delivery of a Woman seized with Epileptick Fits, without Sense or Motion.*

THE 2d of December 1666, I was sent for by a gentlewoman, the wife of a domestic, belonging to her highness the duchess of Orleans, to assist an ancient midwife in the delivery of this gentlewoman seized with epileptick fits, without either sense or motion. I found the membranes broken, and the water gone; so that the head sticking in the birth, and the membranes to the child's head; this joined to the want of water (gone off before) rendered the case very dangerous. I told the midwife we must have a little patience; for in case we went about to force the birth, we might hurt both the mother and the child. It being farther my advice (as it ought always to be) to look for an understanding physician, and to open her a vein. Accordingly Dr. Fabius Perreau being sent for, he came attended by a surgeon; but they looking upon the woman as past all hopes, went away without ordering any thing.

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However, I was not quite discouraged, but consulted with the two ancient midwives there present, (another being called in since) what was best to be done, and as I knew the case extremely dangerous, and neither of them in a condition to attempt the delivery, I did not contradict them in their sentiments, contenting myself to expect with patience (at the earnest requests of the midwives and friends) the issue of the matter; which, according to the judgment of Dr. Perreau and his surgeon, they looking upon as absolutely mortal, they entreated me to stay to be at hand to undertake the *sectio cæsarea*, or dissecting the womb after the mother's death, to save the life of the child.

About two in the afternoon being sent for to administer phlebotomy upon a consultation in St. Martin's street, of Mr. Brayer and Dr. Brisset, I took this opportunity to represent the true state of the case of our patient, and what judgment Dr. Perreau and his surgeon had given upon it. Dr. Brayer told me (like a good christian) that were it not that he was obliged to attend several consultations, he would willingly give a visit to this poor woman, but desiring Dr. Brisset to do it, he willingly complied with his request; and I must speak it to his renown, that the woman owed her preservation to his advice. For he told us immediately, that *tho' Dr. Perreau and his surgeon had declared for the*

sectio cæsarea, as judging the woman past all hopes of life, he yet believed she had strength enough left to be delivered, and that it ought to be attempted without delay. He asked the midwives and me our opinion, we told him, she was a dead woman, unless preserved by a speedy delivery; I added, that in all probability the child being dead, I saw not the least reason for a delay; the doctor being of the same opinion, and that the only way to save the mother was a speedy delivery, I went to work immediately without giving myself time to fetch the instruments requisite for such an operation, tho' I was sensible that my strength alone would scarce be sufficient to bring out the child, the passages being so very strait, the head foremost, and the first time of the woman's being with child; so that these parts being never opened before, the delivery was upon that score also attended with more danger than would have been otherwise. As good fortune would have it, I had a small hook in my pocket, wherewith having removed the membrane from the scull, I brought out the brains thro' the opening of the *seam*, or *sutura coronalis*. I must upon this occasion give a strict charge to all man-midwives not to proceed to these extremities, without a previous consultation with a skilful physician, and the approbation of the standers by, and their being fully convinced of the child's death; for, should it prove otherwise,

you

you may commit a murder: however, in case the woman is in present danger of perishing, and there are signs of the child's being dead, you may save the mother, by bringing away the child, tho' perhaps a man may be mistaken in his judgment, no body being obliged to do beyond his power; and it being a certain rule, that the woman ought to be preserved by all means, in case her life is in imminent danger, the main point in question in this case, and which requires a solid judgment, an instance whereof you may see in the following account.

In the year 1680, Dr. Auzon, a noted physician of the faculty at Paris, and myself, were sent for to a gentlewoman in labour, whom we found afflicted with epileptic fits: Dr. Auzon ordered her immediately a clyster of the common decoction, mixt with three ounces of honey, some mercurial leaves, and of the electuary *diapkenic* one ounce; then being let blood in the arm, the clyster produced several pains, but the fits continued, so that she had ten or twelve of them in an hour. A consultation being agreed upon with Dr. Maurilain, another famous physician of the same faculty, a second phlebotomy was administered in the arm, and a third in two hours after in the foot, which being followed by several pains, I delivered her of a brisk lively girl; upon which occasion, the two doctors gave us this lesson, to act with the utmost circumspection in cases of this nature.

But



But to return to our former observation: finding my strength to fail me to bring forward the head of the child, I was, for want of time to fetch my own, obliged to make use of the hooked handle of an iron spoon or ladle, which I put into the eye, and drawing on the whole carcass of the child, the mother was instantly eased of her fits, but remained excessive weak, and without sense or motion for forty hours after, when recovering herself, she declared, that she knew nothing of what had passed, though she could hardly speak, her tongue being much swelled by the biting of it with her teeth during the fits.

During her labour we gave her sometimes some cordial waters, mixt with the confection of hyacinths and alkermes, without musk, as likewise some Venice theriac. A few days after her delivery, we fomented the privy parts and the neck of the womb, to prevent any putrefaction there; we also made an injection of the decoction of the round aristolochy root in white wine, mixed with sugar. Our fomentation was only water, mixed with salt, or sea-water, an approved remedy in this case, especially if you find the woman inclined to a fever. The passages being very strait and not a little bruised, we fomented the same (after the separation of the mortified parts) seven or eight times a day with a decoction of salt-water, barley, chervil, and agrimony, and  
 2 applied

applied also the following fomentation to the belly.

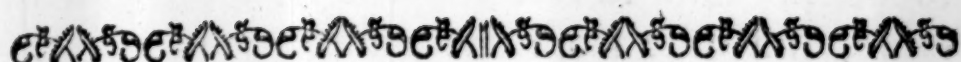
Take the leaves of mallows, althea, the pelitory of the wall, the mercurial and worm-wood, the same quantity of each, boil them in fair water, with half a pound of linseed.

These remedies succeeded so well, that not long after her recovery she was big with child again, and brought to-bed without the assistance of a midwife ; but the third time of her bigness, being in her labour seized with the same fits she had in her first travail, and the surgeon sent for to deliver her, not daring to attempt the delivery, she perished miserably for want of timely help : for though I was sent for afterwards it was too late, both the mother and the child being dead before, either by the violence of the epileptic fits, or by an excessive flux of blood, where-with she was not afflicted the first time of her delivery. I opened the body, and finding all the internal parts without the least blemish, I attributed her death to the excessive evacuation of the blood. Upon this occasion, I must give you this further observation (something of which has been mentioned before in the tenth Observation) *viz.* That the fulness of the urinal bladder sometimes occasions most violent pains ; for the bladder being extended by the urine, and pressing upon the neck of the womb, and its inward orifice, obstructs the free passage of the child ; besides, that  
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the bladder, when filled with urine, being squeezed by the head of the child, produces most violent pains; to prevent which, you must put a probe into the bladder to give passage to the urine, an instance whereof I can give you by my own experience in two gentlewomen, one of which falling continually into fits, was no sooner freed from the urine that had filled her bladder to the quantity of four pounds, but the pain ceased, together with the fits, and was delivered within three hours after, though she died in five days after, without ever recovering her senses. We found an ulcer in her brains, with an infection of the bones. The other gentlewoman feeling excessive pains without any prospect of a forward labour, I evacuated her bladder by the means of a probe, which done, the pain ceased in three hours, and five or six pains procured a happy and easy delivery.

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## OBSERVATION XVIII.

*The Delivery of a Woman having an Ulcer  
in her Womb.*

SEPTEMBER 18th, 1666, being sent for to a woman in labour, of a melancholy constitution, I asked her how matters had gone during her being with child; she told me, that she had lost abundance of blood. I conveyed my hand into the neck of the womb, where I found the child presenting itself with the navel and breast foremost; then advancing with my fingers closed together to the bottom of the womb, I began to spread them again, feeling with my whole hand round the sides of the womb; whilst I was searching for the feet, I felt on the left side a certain hard swelling of the breadth of the palm of my hand, which, upon a more exact search, I judged to be a cancerous tumour.

Notwithstanding this, I proceeded in my business, and taking hold of the child's feet, whilst I was drawing them towards me, the child turned itself; so that after having baptized the foot that came out first, I at last brought forth a lusty boy, and a compleat after-burthen

then, which made me judge, that the flux of blood she had suffered during her being with child, did issue from the before-mentioned tumour. The woman did very well during her lying in ; I ordered her for her diet meat-broths, boiled with cooling herbs, and to avoid all salted and spiced meats ; and for the rest, to take the advice of a good physician. But being unable to follow my directions (by reason of her poverty) she came to me about four months after her delivery, so much altered from what she was before, that I scarce knew her, being quite reduced to a skeleton by the continual pains and flooding of the blood, in spite of all the remedies ; she died soon after. It is to be observed, that this woman had been very excessive in her youth in the use of salt and spiced meats, and drinking of wine, which, together with her natural melancholy disposition, had produced the ulcers, and reduced her to that condition in which she died, which may serve as a warning to young women not to impair their health by such like things, and before all things not to use wine but with moderation.



## OBSERVATION XIX.

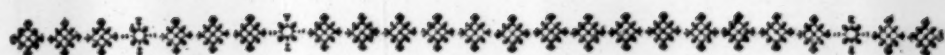
*The Delivery of a Child with the upper part  
of the Arm foremost.*

JANUARY 5th, 1667, I was sent for to assist a woman in labour in the New Mederic's street, being the wife of the organist of that church. She was very sick, and full of pain in the lower region of the belly and circumjacent parts. I conveyed my fingers into the neck of the womb, where I felt the upper part of the child's arm, which I endeavoured to bring backward, but in vain. In such cases as these, you need not be fearful of bringing your hand gently within the womb, to open the passages of a woman in such a condition, either less or more, according as you find it requisite; it being certain that the arm of the child, and the hand of the man-midwife or midwife, both together, do not take up so much place as the single head of a child; besides that, as soon as you begin to draw out the legs of the child, the arm, which is without, will draw backwards of course by this motion, especially if the child be alive; and this method is performed without any considerable trouble to the woman.

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I did therefore guide my hand along the child's arm into the womb to the child's breast, whence passing along to the belly, thighs, and at last to the feet, I pulled out one of the feet, the other following immediately. Having baptized the child, and wrapt a cloath about the thighs, I pulled it forwards to the buttocks, which being larger than ordinary, stuck in the passage, and were not brought out but with some difficulty to the shoulders: then it was I had occasion for all my strength and skill. I conveyed my fingers in above the right shoulder, and straining along the arm to the elbow, I got it loose; then I laid my left hand upon the breast, and the right on the neck; but this not answering my expectation, I was obliged to put one of my fingers into the child's mouth to get the chin loose. I then desired the woman to lift up her body and to lie forwards, by raising herself and resting upon her heels, which she performing accordingly, she was very instrumental in her delivery. The after-burthen followed with ease, by pulling part of the navel-string only with my right, and winding the rest about my fingers. For it is observable, that when a man-midwife or midwife are obliged to turn a child in the womb, they frequently at the same time loosen the after-burthen, which thus follows with ease, by pulling it out only by the navel-string.



## OBSERVATION XX.

*The Delivery of a Child presenting the hindermost Part of the Ribs foremost.*

MARCH 14th, 1667, I was sent for to a woman in labour in the old Mint-street, being lately overturned in a coach as she was coming home out of the country. Having anointed my fingers with fresh butter, I conveyed them into the neck of the womb, to the inward orifice, whereabouts I felt the ribs and the back-bone of the child. Hereupon making use of all my fingers, I did spread them by degrees in the nature of a *speculum matricis*, or womb screw; and thus advancing by degrees within the womb, along the belly, thigh and leg of the child to the foot, I brought it out and baptized it; but not being able to reach the other foot, I pulled out this further to the buttocks, when finding the other that remained within to be laid across, I brought that which I had in my hand backwards, to deliver the other, which succeeding accordingly, I took both the legs together, and winding them in a thin cloth, I pulled out the child in a direct line to the shoulders;

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then

then bringing in my fingers along the arm, I loosened it, by first bending, and then laying it close along to the body ; the same I did with the other arm, and laying my right hand flat to its breast, and taking hold with the left on the neck, desired the woman to assist me with all her strength, at the first pain, to force the child forward, which was happily accomplished, tho' this woman came before her time, which made also the after-burthen stick the closer to the womb, but I made shift to loosen it, after the same manner as has been mentioned in the beginning of this treatise.



## OBSERVATION XXI.

*The Delivery of a very large Child, presenting itself with the Neck, Shoulders and Collar-bone foremost.*

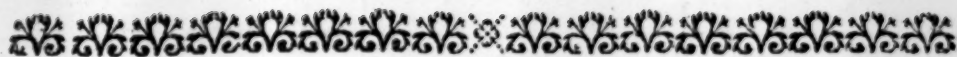
**A**PRIL 16, 1667, I was sent for to a gentlewoman living in the Jew's-street. I found her in hard labour, the child being extreamly large, and coming with the neck, shoulder and collar-bone first. I convey'd my hand (well greased) into the passage, endeavouring to bring the before-mentioned parts back as far as I could, and so letting my hand slide



slide gently along the thighs and legs to the feet, I took hold of them, and pulling them out, baptized them immediately. Afterwards having wrapt them up in a cloth, I pulled more forward to the thighs and buttocks, which were so thick, that they could scarce pass. Coming to the shoulders, I was forced to dilate the orifice gently with my fingers, and laying my left hand upon the child's breast, and the right on the neck, I pulled with all the strength I had, but could not bring forth the head, tho' I put my fingers also in the mouth and ears, for the neck broke off, and the head remained in the womb in spite of all the precaution I could use to the contrary. I left nothing unattempted to lay hold on the head with my fingers, but in vain. I never was more hardly put to it in all my life time, for I had left all my instruments requisite for such a purpose at home, so that I was obliged to desire her husband to fetch them from my house, whilst I was employed in encouraging the gentlewoman, and keeping my hand without intermission (ever since the separation of the trunk of the body from the head) upon the bottom of the womb, to keep open the inner orifice; which, if it had been closed up, it would have been quite impossible to recover the head, a thing which happened not long before to a man-midwife in the same street, to the destruction of the poor woman under his care. This gentlewoman and

her friends, who were not unacquainted with that accident, were in a thousand anxieties.

Her husband being returned with the instruments, I took such a one as I judged most proper, and guided the sharp point along my left hand towards my middle finger, which I kept bent, to prevent the woman from being damnify'd; and thus fixing it into the skull betwixt the seam, I pulled it towards me with my right hand in a direct line, whilst I did the same with the left, wherewith I had taken hold of the skin of that part of the neck which was left on the head; so that tho' this head was near as big as that of a full grown person, yet I brought it out entire, without any further danger to the child-bed woman, who was so well, that in ten days after she came in person to my house, to return me thanks for the care I had taken for her safety, and when I check'd her for venturing abroad so soon, she answered, *That she was very hearty and well.*



## OBSERVATION XXII.

*The Delivery of a putrify'd Child.*

September the 25th, 1667, I was called to the wife of the gardener belonging to Monsieur Geumont, in the village of Villaos, near the river Marre, not far from St. Maur. I found her heart-sick, by reason of a putrify'd child she carried in her belly, which being as cold as a stone, I order'd the women to rub it well with hot cloths. The woman being in a very dangerous condition, I ordered her to be laid upon her back cross the bed, and having well anointed both my hands with fresh butter, and taken a cloth in one to wipe off the nauseous scent from my fingers, I brought the other into the womb, where I found the inward orifice sunk very low, and the exterior skin of the child so rotten all over the body, that it separated from the flesh at the first touch. When I endeavoured to push back the child with my fingers to make room for my hand to enter the womb, the fingers made an impression both in the skin and flesh, as if it had been a piece of dough or paste. I was not a little afraid that the substance of the womb

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might



might be infected with the same putrefaction, and consequently might be apt to be torn; which would have proved fatal to the woman immediately, considering especially she had for seven or eight days successively been afflicted with most violent pains.

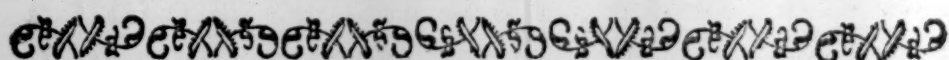
After most mature and serious deliberation (without which nothing of this nature ought to be attempted) I conveyed my hand to the bottom of the womb to find out the feet; and whereas I used seldom to be above a quarter of an hour in search after them, I was near three quarters of an hour before I could take hold of them with my right hand, and pulling them gently forward, wrapt a dry linnen cloth about them: but the whole body of it being rotten, it was impossible to prevent its being torn in divers places, and as I applied all my skill and care to bring it out whole (for fear of hurting the mother) I spent a great deal of time before I could deliver the body, but the head remaining behind, I had more work than before to bring that out also, being destitute of instruments necessary for such an operation. However I supply'd the defect thereof with my fingers, which I brought to the child's mouth, and so got it out; the after-burthen (which was likewise putrify'd) following soon after; I ordered her immediately two spoonfuls of oil, with an ounce and a half of sugar, for want of fresh butter, which is a rarity among the poor country people.

I gave a strict charge to the midwife of the village, who was an understanding woman, to apply to the child-bed woman twice a day, an emollient clyster, made of two pounds of whey, in which has been boiled before the leaves of mallows, althea, violets, motherwort and wormwood, adding to each pound two ounces of honey for that in the morning; but that in the evening to be used without honey. For her constant drink I ordered her a decoction of dog's-grass, liquorice, barley, and the scolopendria. It is observable that this woman, before her delivery, complained of a benumbedness in her right thigh, occasioned by the bulk and weight of the child pressing on that side; this I removed by bathing it with oil of camomil, melilot, and such like emollient remedies. I farther prescribed her a cordial (to be taken every night, two hours after she had taken her broth) of six ounces of carduus water, half a dram of the confection of hyacinths without musk, mixed with two ounces of syrup of nenuphar, to be taken at twice. She also made use of the following clysters.

Take barley, white bread, the leaves of mallows, violets, lettuce, succory and purslain, equal parts; boil them in fair water, apply the decoction sometimes with honey, sometimes without.

To allay the inconvenience of the nauseous scent, she used the decoction of wormwood

and motherwort, for a month or five weeks after her delivery. As I was from time to time inform'd (by letters) of the constitution of her body, I ordered her (after the flooding was over) to make use of an injection into the privy parts, made of barley, centaury, wormwood, motherwort, agrimony, the round aristolochy and consolida roots, and frequently to repeat the same; by the help of which remedies she was restored to health, and in six weeks after her delivery, came no less than three large leagues on foot to return me thanks.



### OBSERVATION XXIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Belly foremost.*

**N**OVEMBER the 7th, 1667, I was called to a woman in the street of Britain, near the Marais du Temple; she being very weak, and the child coming with the belly foremost, I told her husband, *That I must endeavour to turn the child, which in the position it was in then could promise no happy delivery.* Thus to work I went, and guiding my fingers gently along the body of the child down to the thighs and legs, I got hold of the feet, which I brought out in less than three minutes: Having baptized



tized them, I wrapped about them a fine cloth, and so pulled out the child (which was not very big) without much difficulty.

The woman was no sooner delivered, but she said, *She thought herself raised from the dead, desiring me to tarry a little while to direct the midwife (who was none of the most careful) in the management of the child.* I ordered her therefore, that she should cleanse the child with warm wine mixt with some butter, of a certain white, slimy, oleaginous substance, where-with it was covered all over, as has been mentioned once before. This done, I made her rub it with warm dry cloths, and took care that a little butter should be applied to the navel, near the belly. The butter is applied to hasten the falling off of the navel-string, which happens commonly four or five days after the birth, provided you apply fresh butter every morning and evening. But in case you are destitute of butter, you may instead thereof use oil of olives, oil of sweet almonds, or such like emollient medicines, which promote the separation : in this you must dip a small piece of cloth, which you must apply to the navel-string, as is mentioned before, which after the delivery must be considered as superfluous, and not belonging to the body.

After I had made her anoint the navel-string very well with butter, I made her wind about it a small fine cloth, and another doubled one, of 4 inches breadth, round the waist, to close  
up

up the navel. It is the business of the nurse to see this repeated every morning and evening, and to take care that that piece of navel-string, which is to fall off, may not touch the bare belly of the child ; for being very cold, it would create gripes in the child, which may be prevented by winding a dry cloth about it. After the navel-string is dropped off, you must still continue to anoint the navel with butter, and not remove the double cloth round the waist till six weeks after, when it will settle, and be quite dried up. You ought also to lay a double cloth upon the child's breasts and under the armpits.

A midwife, dry or wet nurse, ought to take all possible care to prevent the children from crying fiercely, which often proves the cause of a navel-rupture, or of the *scrotum* in the boys. You may sometimes observe the *scrotum* in the boys bloated up (after their birth) by a flatulent substance, which may be easily dispelled by wrapping them up in warm cloths, dipped in warm white wine or claret, unto which you may add a little salt, which renders it more efficacious : but it must be applied warm to the affected part. The child being dressed, I took my leave of the good woman, who appeared pretty brisk, and returned me many thanks for my care. At parting I once more recommended the woman to the care of the midwife, it happening sometimes, that by some unforeseen accident or other, a woman in

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child-bed

child-bed is lost for want of the assistance of such persons as are well versed in those matters, as it fell out with this woman.

For the midwife being called away, asked the child-bed woman, *whether her flooding was too much?* She answered, *No:* and *that she might go about her business, she being inclined to sleep.* Thus the midwife departed, recommending her to the care of her mother. After the woman had rested for some time, she told her mother *That she found herself very sick;* and the mother not knowing the cause thereof, and thinking to revive her daughter, gives her a good cup of strong broth, which she had no sooner taken down, but laying her head upon the pillow, she expired immediately. This was occasioned by an excessive flooding, whereof the mother not being aware, she proved the innocent occasion of her death; it being of the utmost consequence to take the due time of ministering food, and the true proportion thereof upon such occasions; for the natural heat being suppressed, the vapours which rise upwards are the occasion that the patient is suffocated by the quantity of the food.

There are two general causes of the death of women in child-bed, (as I have told before) *viz,* When the flooding is either too little or too much, which obtains as well in natural as unnatural births. Midwives of skill and experience commonly know how to obviate those evils; but the worst is, that women for the most  
part



part chuse their midwives at the recommendation of their female friends, without being sufficiently convinced of their abilities. The same may be said of the dry nurses, who, tho' for the most part ignorant enough, yet will be tampering with the woman under their care. Thus I know several instances where nurses have sent women in child-bed to the grave, by the excessive use of clysters; whereas such as tender their safety, should not admit of clysters without the advice of a physician, man-midwife, or midwife. Of this I cannot forbear to give you an instance. *A certain gentlewoman in child-bed, being ordered by a physician of note to have a clyster applied once every day; the dry-nurse persuaded the woman, that one was not sufficient, but that she must use them more frequently. In effect, she applied her seven clysters a day, which so weakened the woman, that she died without the least signs of a fever, but so emaciated, that the physician could not guess at the reason, till the same was discovered after her death by the maid, who upbraided the nurse, that she had told her often enough, She should not apply so many clysters to her mistress; but that the nurse bid her Meddle with her own business, and that since she had been a nurse sixty years, she would not be instructed how to manage these matters.*

Thus I remember divers other women put to no small inconveniencies, by the ignorance of their nurses, who have fomented the privy-parts immediately after their delivery with  
wine

wine and other astringent medicines, whereby the flooding being stopped, the same has proved the occasion of dangerous distempers, which may serve as a warning not to proceed too rashly in these cases, without the advice of persons well skilled in their profession.



## OBSERVATION XXIV.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Navel-string foremost.*

**J**UNE 16th, 1668, I was called to a nurse in the Tachary-street, who complained of violent pains all over her belly. I conveyed my fore-finger into the neck of the womb, where finding the membranes broken, and the water gone, I felt the navel-string of the child foremost. I guided my hand into the inner orifice of the womb, along the child's belly, till getting hold of the foot, I brought it out, taking effectual care, that the child's toes turned towards the fundament of the mother, and the heels to the bladder, as has been mentioned before.

After I had baptized it, I wrapped a cloth about the feet, and soon accomplished the delivery, the mother finding herself very well all the

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the time of her lying in: but being with child again not long after, she died in the fourth month of her bigness, the child being grown to the womb.

She sent for me about that time, and upon search made with my finger, found the womb open, as if she had not been with child; tho' it must be confessed, that this is not always a necessary consequence, because the same happens sometimes thus in women. I remember a certain gentlewoman, whose womb from the fourth to the ninth month of her bigness, was always so open, that it would easily admit the extremity of my finger, but the orifice was very thick, which seems to contradict what has been asserted in the tenth Observation, *viz. That during the woman's being with child the womb keeps very close, and that even in the beginning of the labour of the woman (there mentioned) we found the inner orifice thus closed up.* However, it ought to be taken notice of, that the inner orifice of the beforementioned woman was not altogether so hard as that of this. I asked her, *Whether she had her due monthly times?* She answered, *Yes.* Which made me judge she was not with child, which was also the opinion of all the men-midwives and midwives that either saw or heard of her.

Being seized with a fever, and unable to employ a physician, she desired my assistance; and because she complained of most violent pains in her hips, I ordered her to be let blood; but  
the



the pain increafing fo as that her life was de-  
 fpaired of, I recommended her to the care of  
 Mr. Rennet, the vicar of St. Mederic's parifh,  
 who having prayed with her, and given her  
 the facrament, ſhe died ſoon after. I was deſired  
 next morning by her daughter to open her bo-  
 dy, to inveſtigate the cauſe of her death; but  
 being too buſy at that time, they ſent for ano-  
 ther ſurgeon, who opened her within four  
 hours after ſhe was expired, (a thing I ſhould  
 not have conſented to had I been preſent) who  
 found a child of four months old ſunk into the  
 lower belly.



## OBSERVATION XXV.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Head foremoſt.*

**J**ULY the 12th, 1668, I was called to a gen-  
 tlewoman living without St. Anthony's Gate,  
 whom I found in labour, the child coming with  
 the head foremoſt. I ordered her a clyſter, but  
 the ſame producing no manifeſt effect, I let  
 her blood the next day. The poor gentlewo-  
 man did ſtrain hard as often as the pains came,  
 to promote the delivery, but the child being  
 very weak, could not ſecond the endeavours of  
 the mother. This made me deſire the advice  
 of

of a phyfician, and Dr. Moreau being ſent for, we began to conſult, in conjunction with Mr. Bonchet (lately called in), a noted and able ſurgeon of the company of Paris, and an excellent man-midwife, what was to be done ; and, after divers arguments, it was concluded to have patience, tho' the head of the child appeared ready for the birth, and the orifice of the mother opened to the bignefs of a French crown-piece, but of an oval figure. But the child could make no further advances towards its delivery, the ſeveral parts of the paſſage being ſo hardened, that there was no way of extending them ſufficiently to afford an opening for the child.

We ordered her a clyſter of the decoction of the leaves of mallows, althea, violets, the pellitory of the wall, of the flowers of camomil and melilot, in a pound whereof was diſſolved an ounce of the electuary *benedicti laxativi*, and three ounces of honey. After the application of the clyſter, we afforded her only eggs for her food, and preſcribed her a ſecond phlebotomy ; after which we gave her a cordial of clove-gilly-flower water, mixed with a drachm of cinnamon water, and as much confection of hyacinths without muſk, which is generally noxious to women under thoſe circumſtances. But all theſe endeavours proved fruitleſs, the child remaining unfortunately fixed in the inward orifice of the womb, the hairy crown being plainly

plainly discoverable of the bigness of a goose egg.

Things remained thus till the 15th day, when we applied another clyster, but without any alteration, neither this nor the following 16th day. The 17th day and following night she complained of excessive pains, and voided much water. The 18th we plainly perceived that our patient grew worse and worse; this made us send again for Dr. Moreau, to crave his assistance. He enquired of us, (*viz.* another man-midwife and surgeon of our hall, two midwives, and myself) how matters had gone for the last twenty-four hours, whereof having given him an exact account, it was agreed on all hands, that the child must be dead, it being impossible it should remain so long in that station without being suffocated; and that therefore the delivery ought to be begun, since the Doctor was of opinion, that the woman had strength enough to undergo it.

However, she having received the Sacrament, my brother man-midwife, being the eldest, he went to work, (Mr. Buiclat, whom we mentioned before, being absent) and did all that possibly could be expected from a person well versed in his art. He fixed a hook into the child's head, but not taking sufficient hold, the head would not follow, as he hoped it might have done, though he spent above an hour, and took incredible pains to bring it out. Dr. Moreau pitying the condi-

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tion



tion of the poor patient, told him, that he being of a great age wanted strength to perform so difficult a task, and therefore he had better leave it to me. I excused the matter as long as I could, the patient being my intimate acquaintance, whom I knew I could not deliver without great pain ; but Doctor Moreau being sufficiently sensible of the difficulties and danger likely to attend this delivery, enjoined me positively to begin the work, which I did with my hand only, without the help of a hook. For perceiving that the head was miserably torn by the hook, I removed gently the bones of the head with my fingers, for fear they should hurt the woman ; and thus bringing out the bones one after another, the brains followed of course. Then I pushed back the trunk of the body, the shoulders whereof were fixed in the inner orifice of the womb, without being able to pass it. I took almost incredible pains to bring them backwards, in order to come at the feet, which succeeding at last, I brought them out, afterwards the trunk, and at last the afterburthen.

Dr. Moreau ordered the woman a mixture of six ounces of the water of allelujah, the juice of three four oranges, a drachm of the confection of hyacinths without musk, two ounces of syrup of lemons, and the same quantity of the oil of sweet-almonds for two or  
three

three doses, to strengthen the patient and promote the flooding. Two hours after the taking of the last dose, she was allowed a cup of broth, mixt with the juice of two four oranges. The two first nights she had also a clyster of a pound of whey, mixt with two ounces of oil of sweet almonds.

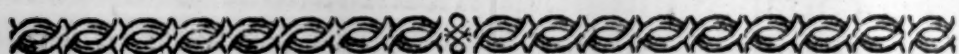
Upon search of the privy passages, we found the same very black, somewhat mortified, and in a manner benumbed. Against this, we made use of sea-water, or common water, mixt with an ounce of salt to a pound, which being warm'd, we dipped a sponge in it, and fomented and rubbed the parts with it well, twice or thrice a day, which succeeded so well that we restored their natural heat. We were also sometimes not sparing in letting of blood both in the arm and foot, and in cordials, such as the waters of scorzonera and of carduus equal parts, adding a drachm of confection of hyacinths and alkermes, without musk, and two ounces of syrup of lemons to each pound of the waters, to be taken at twice. We made also frequent use of clysters, and after the first three days changed our fomentation for the following.

Take two ounces of the round aristolochy roots, washed several times in white wine, (which is thrown away) steep them afterwards twelve hours in a pint of French wine, mixt with four ounces of sugar, and let it boil to a third part.

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With

With this we bathed the patient four or five times a day with good success, though she kept her bed for three months after, complaining continually of such bearings down, as if she was ready to be delivered. She has never been with child since, though for the rest she is very healthy, except that oftentimes she is troubled with the whites, accompanied with great itching, to allay which, she bathes herself with brandy, which she has found the best remedy hitherto.



## OBSERVATION XXVI.

### *The Delivery of a Woman of a Mola.*

**B**EFORE I proceed any further, I must acquaint the reader, that the reasons why these observations are interrupted, from 1668, till February 1671, was a lingering sickness, which hindered me from following my usual employment.

The 16th of February 1671, I was called to a baker's wife, afflicted with a violent flux of blood. After I had brought my fingers into the inward orifice of the womb, I felt a membranous substance of the bigness of a bowl, such as they use in the pall-malls, which I  
judged



judged to be a mola, or false conception. I made use of my fingers to separate it from the mother, and to bring it out in pieces, which I did by degrees; and the whole being got out, the flux ceased. This put me in mind of a certain passage in Mr. Viurdel's treatise, wherein he tells you, that in case a child comes with the head foremost, but cannot penetrate, you may make a hole in it with the tops of your fingers, and so bring it out. I found now by experience the impossibility of this assertion, being forced to make use of all my strength to get entrance into this membranous body with the extremity of my fingers, which would have proved an impossibility in a bony head, covered close with a tough hairy skin.



## OBSERVATION XXVII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Face foremost.*

MARCH 11th, 1671, I was sent for to a shoemaker's wife in the parish of St. Mederic. Upon search I found the child's face foremost, stuck fast in the orifice; I anointed the face with butter cooled in fresh water, it being too soft before. I advised the mother to further the birth, by straining downwards as

often as she found the pains coming ; for without these all the endeavours of the woman are to no purpose, but serve only to weaken her. I told her, that we must let the child come forward in the same posture it was in, though it would render her labour both harder and more tedious ; yet, that notwithstanding this, it was much safer to commit the whole to the strength of nature, than to use violence or run the hazard of hurting the child's face, and especially the eyes ; though notwithstanding all the imaginable caution, very few children that are born in this posture, come into the world without their faces bruised : but that is soon repaired by laying cloths dipped in wine and oil upon it, as I told you in the third chapter of this treatise. This moved me to expect the issue with some patience, which proved very fortunate, the child being born without any further trouble, or any of my assistance, than only anointing the passage with butter, and the mother was very well.

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## OBSERVATION XXVIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Mouth foremost.*

**J**ULY the 12th, 1671, I was called to a gentlewoman, whom I found excessive weak, and almost without pains to promote the birth. Having brought my finger into the neck, and thence into the inward orifice of the womb, I found the child's mouth foremost, which made me draw back my fingers, for fear of doing mischief to an eye, which may easily happen in this case. I was willing to stay for the coming of the pains, but none appearing in two hours time, and her strength abating considerably, I thought it best to go about the delivery of the woman, who conjured me almost every minute to help her of her burthen, at any rate, though it were by opening her belly, the violence of the pain she felt in the womb and bladder being insupportable.

I represented the dangerous state of her case to the standers by, she being a young woman, and the first time of her delivery, which by reason of the straitness of the parts rendered the case more difficult. They all agreeing in the

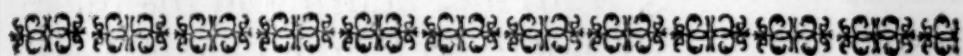


same opinion, that I should do what lay in my power for her delivery, and she having taken care of her soul, I slipped my fingers (well oiled) into the passage, endeavouring to move the child gently, and by degrees backwards, without the least violence, for fear of tearing the inward orifice, as it happened to a man-midwife of my acquaintance not long before. I advanced with my fingers by degrees, and putting one of them bent into the child's mouth, I pressed the under jaw towards the neck and collar-bone; and coming at last towards the forehead, pushed it gently from me, desiring in the meanwhile the mother not to press down against me, which would have been a great impediment. She had so much steadfastness as to follow my direction, notwithstanding the severity of the pain she was forced to suffer, which proved no small help to me in reducing the child to the bottom of the womb.

This done, I gently conveyed my fingers along the child's body in search of the feet, and these being found, I brought them out and baptized them. Afterwards wrapping a cloth about the legs, I drew out the body as far as the shoulders, and then taking care to bring forth the arms and head, the after-burthen then followed with ease.

The woman soon recovered her strength after the delivery, and did extremely well without any further inconveniency, except that the outward orifice of the womb was a little raw,

or sore, a thing not unusual at the first delivery, which is cured easily by a fomentation with the decoction of barley and chervil, mixt with some honey of roses, to be applied five or six times a day. We also ordered her the juice of two four oranges, mixed with oil of sweet-almonds and syrurp of maiden-hair two ounces each, the juice of oranges being very proficuous in promoting the flooding, and the oil and syrurp answering the same end. The child was born dead.



## OBSERVATION XXIX.

*A Delivery of the After-burthen before the Child, which came with the head foremost after it.*

**J**ULY 14th, 1671, I was sent for at nine o'clock at night to a gentlewoman in labour, lodging at an attorney's in the Blind-street of St. Martin's, near St. Mederic. There was a consultation betwixt Dr. Moreau, Mr. Bouchet, and me; but the last being called away, left the management of the matter to me. The woman having been troubled for three weeks successively with a violent flux of blood, was by this time grown so weak, that for fear of the worst, we advised her to take the sacrament; which done,  
I brought

I brought my fingers into the neck of the womb, where the first thing I met with was the after-burthen, and the child's head behind it. I assured them, that as the labour advanced the flooding would cease, which happened as I had foretold; for a fierce pain intervening, the head forcing its way thro' the after-burthen, I delivered the child without much trouble, though it was dead before, the woman being but just in the eighth month of her bigness.

After her delivery she was affected with frequent swooning fits, which we attributing to some coagulated clods of blood remaining in the womb, I searched for them with my hand, but found none, and the flooding ceased soon after; the true cause of these swooning fits drawing their origin from the great loss of blood, the poor patient being reduced to that degree of weakness, that we expected her death every moment, and therefore durst not stir nor move her. After having continued thus without sense or motion for some time, we at last ventured to shift her linnen, and Dr. Moreau prescribed her proper remedies, and a convenient diet to revive and strengthen her spirits. First of all he ordered her the following cordial.

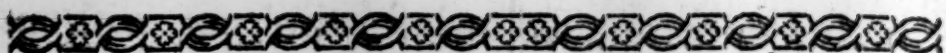
Water of bugloss, allelujah and carduus, two ounces each; prepared pearls, half a drachm; *confectio alkermes*, without musk, one drachm; syrup of raspberries, an ounce  
and



and a half, to be taken by spoonfuls, betwixt the use of her broth made of pullets and veal, to be used frequently, but a little at a time. She was also ordered a jelly of hartshorn, to strengthen the parts and prevent a looseness. The clysters were prepared of the decoction of lettuces, purslain, mallows, althea and violet leaves, mixed with honey, two ounces in the morning, but in the evening without honey. For her constant drink she used the decoction of barley and liquorish, with a little pimpernel. By the help of these remedies she recovered her health and strength.

Not long after I delivered a gentlewoman in St. Dennis's street, under the same circumstances, in the presence of Dr. Lickard, a famous physician, and deacon of the faculty of Paris. This gentlewoman being delivered in the eighth month of her being with child, retained still a most violent head-ach, occasioned by the excessive loss of blood, which had brought her to death's door, so that she received all the sacraments, but was restored to her former health, without feeling any farther inconvenience after her lying-in.

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## OBSERVATION XXX.

*The Delivery of a Monstrous Birth, being  
neither Boy nor Girl.*

AUGUST 2d, 1671, I was sent for in the night time to a woman in hard labour, in the street De la Mortellerie, the midwife, tho' else skilful enough, being quite put to her wits end what to do. Upon search I found the head of the child (which was dead) standing in the birth, which they had taken care to baptize; so that now not being solicitous upon that account, all my care was to preserve the mother. I therefore brought my fingers gently into the passage, as far as I could reach, in order to bring out the dead carcass, but to my great surprize, found the head disjoined from the trunk, and one arm broken, which obliged me to put in my whole hand by degrees, to take hold of some other part of the body. I felt a kind of bladder, not unlike that of a hog, full of water, which I endeavoured to open with my fingers, but in vain; and therefore cutting it with a hook, about three or four pints of water came out of the child's body, the water contained in the membranes being

being voided before. I now began to conceive good hopes of a safe delivery of the carcass, which I encompassed at last, tho' not without great difficulty. I ordered a draught to be made of the child before I opened it; it had a great tumour in the lower region of the belly, six inches and a half long from one side to the other, and four and a quarter broad from the navel down to the groin. It was somewhat elevated in the middle, and underneath it, towards the groin, appeared another tumour, not unlike a wart, of a circular figure, and the diameter the eighth part of an inch, and protuberating to the height of the twelfth part of an inch; when you squeezed it, there issued thence some drops of water, which made us imagine, that perhaps it might be an imperfect member of a boy. The navel-string had five sixth parts of an inch diameter, where it was inserted into the child's belly. The after-burthen appeared natural and perfect; and the woman herself (notwithstanding her hard labour) felt herself very well, and subject to no more pain than she had been in her former lyings in, which had been always easy enough. Thus much of the delivery.

As to the child, we began the opening by an incision put cross the belly; *viz.* We separated the skin from the navel along the white streak that runs down to the groin, and thus proceeded even to the place where the great gut ought to be placed, to see whether it might lye concealed



cealed there, because it happens sometimes, that one is obliged to make an incision in that part, to open a passage for the excrements; but we could neither discover *anus* nor cods, nor any outward genital parts. Then we made another incision cross the muscles of the belly, to get sight of the paunch, and to discover if possible, thereabouts some of the outward parts; but though we searched as narrowly as could be, we found not the least signs of an *anus*, passage for the urine, or yard, or womb, or any other conveyance for the excrements either of the guts or bladder. We observed also the muscles of the lower region of the belly, rather of a membranous than fleshy substance, of a palish colour, as if they had been washed by the water, that had occasioned the dropsy in this child. We searched narrowly under the skin and the muscles, where the lesser tumour was coherent to them, whether it was not the yard, but could not discover any thing like it, there being not the least footsteps to be seen, of seminal vessels, of the stones, passage of the urine, or of the womb, or any thing else which might discover the least difference of sex, which made us conjecture, that the child not being able to discharge its urine through the usual passage, was seized with this dropsy, which also led us into this further speculation, that perhaps the urine of a child in the womb furnishes part of that water which is voided during the mother's travail.

What

What confirms me in this opinion, is, that I once delivered a child, which being drawn out by the feet, and stopping in the passage with its belly, let a considerable quantity of urine, tho' in all probability it had not drawn any breath before.

Having taken a full view of every thing thus far, we also opened the rest to inspect also the interior parts of the belly. The first thing we saw, was the before-mentioned large tumour, being the bladder itself full of water. We were just opening it, when perceiving the great gut, instead of its natural position, to be fastened to, and terminating into the bladder; we were resolved to investigate the manner of this infection. The great gut appeared black, by reason of the black excrements gathered in the guts of the children in the womb, and which are never discharged till after the birth; these are sometimes so hardened there, that you are obliged to have recourse to the oil of sweet almonds, a little cassia, or some syrups, to promote their evacuation; without which the child would be bereaved of its nutriment. Accordingly opening the bladder, there issued thence about a pint and a half of clear water, without any mixture of the black excrements; but pressing the arse-gut towards the bladder, a small quantity of them appeared upon the bottom of the bladder, which giving us sufficient occasion to open that gut about an inch above the bladder, and to put a stile with a round head into it, the same made  
its

its way directly without any opposition into the opening thro' which the excrements had been squeezed into the bladder. The last being quite evacuated did not shrink or at least very little, being very hard, and of the thickness of the eighth part of an inch, and of a whiter colour than usual, occasioned according to our sentiment, by the dropsy, which thro' the *urachus* spreading itself all over the body, caused that evacuation of the water which we told you issued from the body, after its first opening, with the hook. The exterior muscles were also pale, and not near so red as the interior ones. The head, tho' separated from the body, was full of blood: and at the bottom of the right side of the bladder, we discovered certain small stones joined so closely to its substance, that we could scarce get them loose; they extended in length the third part of an inch, and in breadth an eighth part. The kidneys were distinguished into several partitions, closed up in one membrane or skin, as we see in the young deer, which made me suspect, that out of each of these partitions, the urine was conveyed into the *pelvis*, or basin of the kidney.

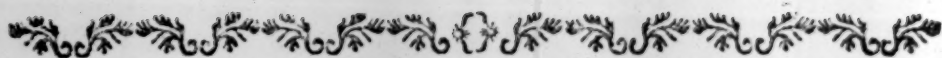
The liver appeared natural both in colour and substance; which gave me occasion to imagine, that the beforementioned dropsy, had no other origin, than the want of passage of the urine, which being forced back, dispersed itself through the *urachus* into the exterior part of the body.

It



It is a vulgar saying, that *the water is broken*, when the water issues from the womb, tho' very improperly, it being the membranes that contain the water, and are broken in labour. We discovered the *ureters* fastened to the bladder and kidneys, and looked for the seminal vessels, but found nothing of them, nor any other part belonging to progeneration, nor any of the veins or arteries which send their branches that way. The stomach and cawl appeared natural, and in their proper stations, as did also the spleen, but somewhat pale. We opened also the breast, and discovered the heart with its *pericardium*, being much more red than the muscle of the inferior belly. The lungs were of their true colour, without any signs of a dropfy; and, to be short, all the other parts in the *thorax*, or superior concavity, had nothing in them worth observation.

According to the reckoning of the mother, the child was just seven months in the womb; she had been extremely well ever since her lying-in, and when Mr. Pecquet and I visited her, she had only some small dropfical symptoms in her legs, wherewith she was seized about three weeks before her delivery, but has been very well since.



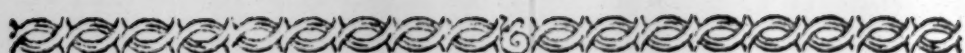
## OBSERVATION XXXI.

*The Delivery of a Child presenting the Navel-String, the Hand, the Elbow, and Knee.*

**A**PRIL the 7th, 1671, I was called to a fruiterer's wife in Pear-tree-street near St. Mederic's. Upon search I found the navel-string, in the neck of the womb, as likewise one hand, one elbow, and one knee, at the same time. The membranes being broken, and the water gone, the passages were very dry, which put me into no small consternation, as it often happens to the most courageous men-midwives upon such difficult occasions. However, I conveyed my fingers (well greased before) very gently into the neck of the womb, and reduced the navel-string back as far as I could within the inward orifice of the womb, which done, I endeavoured to do the same with the arm, charging the woman not to press forward ; and this also succeeding according to wish, I push'd the knee to one side, till the foot followed, which I drew out, and baptized. I pulled the foot nearer and nearer to me, without troubling myself to look for the other, when my hand was covered with the black excrements

ments I have spoken of before: I continued drawing the foot towards me as gently as I could, and the knee of the other leg appearing, I put it back, and so got hold also of the other foot. Then I wrapped each of them separately (for fear of bruising them) in a thin cloth, and pull'd the child out to the knees, and afterwards to the thighs and shoulders. After I had loosened them a little, I laid my hands upon the breast and neck (as has been often mentioned before) but the head stuck so fast, that I was forced to bring two of my fingers into the child's mouth, and with a great deal of trouble to the help of the child's chin, which stuck to the uttermost and undermost part of the neck of the womb, and thus brought forth a handsome girl, which was baptized in St. Mederic's church. The mother did so well, that within six days after she came into her shop, and declared, *That she had suffered less in this, than in her former, tho' natural deliveries.*





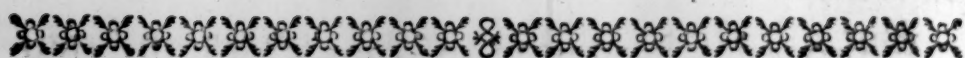
## OBSERVATION XXXII.

*The Delivery of a Monstrous Child with the Face foremost.*

**A**UGUST the 25th, 1671, I was sent for, betwixt ten and eleven o'clock at night, to deliver a woman in the parish of St. John's. Upon search made, I felt two small tumors, which I conjecturing to be the child's eyes, I was very careful of touching the same, but sliding along gently with my fingers sometimes on one, sometimes on the other side, I felt divers other protuberances, which, upon strict examination, proved to be on the hindmost part of the head, directly opposite to the beforementioned little tumors. The head was quite flat at the top, as if the skull had been sawed off, and without any other bones. I endeavoured to draw it out, but found it a difficult task; so that finding not the least sign of life, and that I could not possibly manage it alone with my hands, I conveyed with my fingers a string round below the chin, in hopes to draw it out thus, but to my great surprize it broke in pieces, tho' it was a very strong one. However, I had advanced so far by the help of  
the

the string, that I brought it quite out not long after.

It proved a strange monstrous child, so that the midwife, and others who saw it, were highly surprized at it. The head was no bigger than a large tennis-court-ball, with a round agreeable visage, but quite flat on the top, having only a black spot instead of the skull. It had two ears, on each side one, but shaped like those of apes, except that they did not stand upright, but hung downwards, like dogs ears, and were surrounded with a reddish hair, (like those of an ox) an inch and a half long : behind the ears were two protuberancies on each side, like the horns of a calf. Thus there was scarce any thing of true human shape in the head, unless it were the face, which would have been very handsome, had it not been for the eyes, which were also very much misshaped. It was a girl, and delivered in the seventh month of the mother's bigness. After the breaking of the membranes, the water came in such quantity, that it ran through the bed upon the floor ; and after the bringing out of the after-burthen, there followed a quart more (detained hitherto among the membranes) with such clods of blood, as I had not seen for a considerable time before.



## OBSERVATION XXXIII.

*The Delivery of a Woman in most violent Fits.*

AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>, 1671, I was sent for to a woman afflicted with most violent epileptic fits, living at the foot of the bridge of our Lady in St. Mederic's parish. At the desire of Dr. Mathon, a physician of the faculty of Paris, to search the woman, I brought my fingers into the neck of the womb, and I found the inner orifice opened only to the bigness of a good six-pence. Hereupon it was thought adviseable to administer phlebotomy in the foot, which being done accordingly by Mr. Lombart, my brother surgeon, the fits ceased, and the woman recovered her senses, but within a minute they returned again. By this time Dr. Moreau coming to our assistance, we went into a consultation what was best to be done, the result whereof was, that a clyster should be applied, made of the decoction of the emollient herbs, mixt with half an ounce of the *electuarium benedicti laxativii*, three ounces of honey, and two ounces of oil of sweet almonds: after this, to let blood in the arm, and give the patient a cordial of carduus-water, ten ounces; of the  
con-



confection of hyacinths, a drachm ; and syrup of lemons two ounces, for two doses.

But all these remedies not producing any considerable alteration, it was judged absolutely necessary to proceed to the delivery of the woman. Our resolution being communicated to her husband, and the danger of his wife, he desired that nothing might be left undone that might contribute towards the saving of her life ; so I undertook the task under condition, *That all there present should engage to clear me of the aspersions that might perhaps be cast upon me, in case the woman should die during the operation.* Unto which they replied, *That as they looked upon the patient as a dead woman, it was absolutely necessary to undertake the operation, and would therefore bring no blemish upon my reputation.* So to work I went, and the poor woman being without sense or motion, like a dead carcass, I laid her cross the bed. My hands being very well greased with fresh butter, I conveyed my fingers along the neck of the womb to its inner orifice, which finding something more opened than in the morning, I put two of my fingers, one after another, into the inward orifice, and so dilating it by degrees, brought in the third finger, and stretching further, introduced at last the fourth, when forming them in the shape of a *speculum matricis*, or screw, I extended the orifice with great caution, for fear of bruising the parts, till at last getting my hand within

the womb (which was very large) I found the child swimming within its membranes. Having broken them with my fingers, whilst the water was coming out, I felt for one of the feet, which falling into my hand immediately, whilst I was feeling for the other, I met with the navel-string, which giving me opportunity to discover that the child was still alive, by the beating of the arteries (or pulse), I brought the foot out immediately, and wrapping it in a cloth, pulled it more towards me ; and moving my hand higher up towards the knee, I discovered the shin-bone of the other leg, lying cross the first leg, which I pushed gently backwards to get room for the other to bring it out, and so drew them out both together ; for had I used the least violence in pulling out the first leg alone, I should have broken that which lay across ; to prevent which, singular caution ought to be used in such like cases.

Whilst I was employed in delivering of the woman, the doctors frequently felt her pulse, to be satisfied concerning her strength, which began to be very low. In the bringing out of the feet I took especial care to keep the child's body in a strait line, and to turn the toes (as much as could be done towards the fundament of the woman ; though the same is not to be effected at all times, and that for two reasons ; *first*, when the child is exceeding big ; and *secondly*, when the womb is too small

and close. In which two cases it is not always feasible.

I brought out the child as far as to the head, which sticking in the neck of the womb, the mother was seized with a most violent fit, which continuing for above half a quarter of an hour, killed the child. After the fit was over I proceeded with all imaginable care, and now being sensible that no further harm could be done to the child, I brought my fingers into its mouth, and so pulling by the under jaw, whilst I put my other hand to the neck; I at last accomplish'd the delivery, but was forced to make use of all my strength to encompass it; tho' at the same time I would have you take this as a rule in these nice operations, that circumspection and judgment have the greatest share in them. The next thing to be done was to bring forth the after-burthen, which follow'd without much trouble as it happens frequently in these cases, where you have occasion to further the birth with your hand in the womb, as has been mention'd before; and so it happened with this woman, for tho' the lower part thereof was fastened to the bottom of the womb on the right side, yet guiding my fingers along the navel-string, I loosen'd the same in a minute.

All this while our patient remained senseless, which continued above twelve hours after her delivery. The next morning having a little recovered her senses, I asked her, *Whether she would be delivered?* She answer'd, *Yes.* But when  
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I told her, *That it was done already*, she declared, *That she knew nothing of it no more than of the fits she had had.* She did very well during her lying-in, except that for the first twelve days she was somewhat feverish, but afterwards mended apace, and was pretty healthy, tho' this was her first child, and she had been always very sickly before.



## O B S E R V A T I O N   XXXIV.

### *The Delivery of a putrify'd Child.*

September 5th, 1671, I was called to a gentlewoman, the wife of one belonging to the king's household, suspecting herself to be big with child. Her midwife being of opinion that she was not, I desired they should send for Dr. Doutee, a learned physician of the faculty of Paris, who asking my opinion, whether I thought the gentlewoman with child or not; I answer'd, yes; and the Doctor agreeing in the same sentiment, we did not think fit to have her let blood in the foot, which was urged by the midwife, upon supposition, that she was not with child.

Instead thereof, Dr. Doutee order'd a purgation of the decoction of two drachms of  
sena

sena leaves, mixt with an ounce of syrup of rhubarb, which gave some relief for that time. But within a month after, being seized with a most violent pain about the region of the kidneys, and in the belly, she sent for another midwife, who told her, that the membranes appear'd in the neck of the womb, of about the bigness of a penny loaf. Accordingly the membranes breaking, and the water following, the midwife assured her, that the inward orifice of the womb was now of the bigness of half a crown; whereupon I being sent for, she told me, that she believed she was not with child, because she had had her regular monthly courses; besides that, I remembered, it was the opinion of her former midwife, that she was not with child.

But upon search having conveyed my forefinger into the neck of the womb, I found the inward orifice very much sunk; so that being forced to guide my finger along the arse-gut, I felt a leg as far as to the knee: I took hold of it with my fingers, which, without the least violence, remained in my hands torn from the body, which sufficiently convinced me, that the child was dead and putrify'd, being no bigger than the thigh of a large frog.

It was thought fit to send once more for Dr. Doutee, who being convinced that the child was dead, advised, that it ought to be expelled. It was therefore agreed, that a clyster should be applied of the common decoction, in which  
also

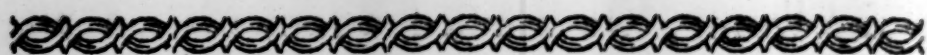
also should be boiled one wild cucumber, and one coloquinth apple, with the additions of one ounce of the *electuarium diaphænicum*. This clyster proved so successful, that the ensuing pains forced forward the remaining part of the child, which being quite putrify'd, afforded a very nauseous scent. In case the clyster had not answered our intention, we intended to have applied a suppository made of oxes gall; we repeated the same clyster, but without any manifest effect; she was extremely weak, occasioned by the excessive loss of blood, which not ceasing as yet, I brought my fingers in, and found the inward orifice very hard and inflamed. I did all I could to dilate the said orifice (being a quarter of an inch thick) and advanced very far with my fingers to reach the after-burthen, sustaining the child's belly all the while with my left hand. With a great deal of trouble I at last brought it out, but by piece-meals, there remaining also a piece of the bigness of a nut behind, but being separated before from the womb, the flooding ceased; so I let the patient take some rest, who, by this excessive evacuation, was reduced so low, that in case it had not been stopp'd, as it was, by the separation of the after-burthen, she must have infallibly died.

I shewed the clods of blood and after-burthen to Dr. Doutee, who ordered her not to be disturbed all that day. The next day being sunday, a clyster was applied, made of the  
common



common decoction, with two ounces of honey. About noon a fetid matter issuing out of the womb, we applied a fomentation and injection, made of barley and chervil, a handful each. The next following night she reposed pretty well, without any symptoms of a fever, but complained of pains in the belly and hips, which we attributed to a flatulent humour; she asked for some victuals, which we denied her, but she made bold towards evening, at five of the clock, with a good cup of broth, with bread in it. On Tuesday she had the former clyster repeated, but we prescribed another injection of the decoction of wild cucumber roots and of agrimony, with three ounces in a quart of centaury water. We pursued the same method two days longer, which restored our patient so effectually, that she left the bed in a few days after.

O B S E R -



## OBSERVATION XXXV.

*The Delivery of a Child, presenting the upper Part of the Thigh.*

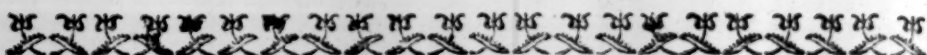
September 22d, 1671, being sent for to a poor washer-woman in the street of John de l'Epiko in the parish of St. Mederic, I found every thing leading towards a delivery, the membranes being broken, and the water gone. Notwithstanding which the woman thought of nothing but death, and would needs send for her confessor, tho' by the pulse of the arteries of the navel-string I was well convinced that the child was alive. The child came with the upper part of the thigh foremost; but having found means to bring it back gradually into the womb, I guided my hand along the leg to the foot, which I brought out and baptized; then wrapping a cloth about the leg, I drew it towards me gently to the thigh and buttock, when the other leg also began to appear, resting upon the child's belly. I pulled still on by the leg I had brought out before, till the whole body followed, whence it is easy to guess, that it is not always necessary to put the hand into the womb to get out the second

cond foot, unless it were, that (as has been told before) the said leg should lie across, in which case you would break it, if you should draw too strong by the first foot. But without this, or such like an accident, the man-midwife need not fasten a string to the leg, the same being not to be done without great pain to the mother, and consequently not to be put in practice but in case of necessity, tho' it is unquestionably more easy, and requires less strength, to pull a broadish linnen string, than the leg itself: but it ought to be observed, that this method is prejudicial both to the mother and child, the bladder and some other adjacent parts being in great danger of being torn, and by the violent pulling the child's leg may be broken, or the foot quite torn off, whereof I knew some instances; it being easy to be imagined, that since after they have fastened the string to the leg, they generally bring it back into the womb, to find out the other; all which can't be done without violence and bruising of the passages, all which may be avoided, if you make use only of your hands.

After having pulled out the child to the shoulders, I found them so broad, that I was forced to guide my hand along the arm to the elbow, and so loosening it and one of the shoulders, left the other in the passage, till it came forth along with the head, holding one hand upon the breast, the other on the neck: it proved



proved a lively girl, without any blemish. The mother took a little oil of olives, and used every day an emollient and cooling clyster, which are very proper in such cases.



### OBSERVATION XXXVI.

*Of a Miscarriage of a Fœtus two Months old.*

OCTOBER 23d, 1671, I was called to a gentlewoman ready to miscarry of a fœtus of two months old. I found it still enclosed in the membranes, which I opened at the desire of Dr. Pecquet of the faculty of Montpelier. The fœtus had the resemblance of a bee. The 9th of the same month I saw just such another, coming from a gentlewoman of Antwerp. We perceived a slender speck in the membrane, called the Amnios, of the bigness of a good pea, and some small veins, terminating on the said membrane. Dr. Pecquet judged it to be no natural or compleat fœtus, but rather a monster, tho' the navel-string was fastened to the after-burthen, and the eyes, nose and mouth were discernible thro' the membranes. The mother did very well; it being observable, that in these sorts of miscarriages, there is scarce any occasion for a man-midwife or midwife, unless  
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in case of an excessive flux of blood (which happens sometimes) or that the after-burthen should stay behind.



## OBSERVATION XXXVII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the knee foremost.*

**N**OVEMBER 9th, 1671, I was called to a woman in St. Martin's street. The time of her reckoning being not quite come, I searched her, and finding the child's knee foremost, pushed it back to get hold of the foot, which I pulled out and baptized; then wrapping a cloth about the leg above the ankle, I pulled towards me, and the other leg resting upon the belly, it followed with the buttocks, and the whole body afterwards, without much difficulty.

'Tis worth observation, that when the child comes with the breech foremost, there appears some black excrements, called *meconium*, as we told you before. But this never happening till after the breaking of the membranes, and the coming out of the water, it seems probable, that these excrements are pressed downwards by the breath of the child, as soon as it is sensible of the circum-ambient air. Mr. Viardel

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in his Treatise of Midwifery, says, *That the appearance of these excrements before the child is born, is an infallible sign of its being dead.* But as I have frequently experienced the contrary, I am of opinion, he asserted this position upon the credit of such authors as write much more than they have seen; whereas it would be much more for the benefit of the public, especially in such cases as those, if nothing were published but what is founded upon good and unquestionable credit and experience.

I drew the child towards me to the armpits, and having loosened the arm with my fingers, I laid my left hand upon the breast, and the right on the neck, and so pulling forward in a direct line, compleated the delivery. I tied the navel-string two inches distance from the belly, and once more two inches further towards the womb-cake, and so cut it thro' in the middle, as we have told you before. I took particular notice whether any blood issued out of the extremities, and consequently whether these knots were well tied, a thing too often neglected by midwives; which done, I brought forth the after-burthen.

It is further to be observed, that the after-burthen, or womb-cake (as the country women call it) is oftentimes joined to the womb, tho' not always in the same place. Nature, as it seems, not limiting itself to any certain rule in this case; sometimes it is either quite loose,  
or



or scarce joined, when it follows with ease by the least pull of the navel-string, and comes off from the bottom or sides of the womb, as dough does from a board well strewed with flower; but in case it is more closely joined, it is as troublesome to be removed thence, as it is with a piece of dough from a table, that has not been strewed before with flour, which must be brought off by pieces. Just thus it proceeds with the after-burthen; and what is not to be removed from, or remaining close to the womb, is generally voided afterwards with the flooding, or brought to a suppuration by the milk fever; which is also the reason that the flooding has sometimes an ill scent, without any other inconveniency to the woman.

Whence it is, that men-midwives and midwives ought to act with circumspection in reference to the after-burthen; for in case the same is loose, it follows by the least pulling of the navel-string; but in case it is closely joined to the womb, you must take care not to pull the string with the least violence, for fear of inverting the bottom of the womb, which following the after-burthen, would prove mortal to the woman; wherefore in this last case, it is the safest way to convey your hand gently into the womb and loosen the after-burthen, which being done, you may pull without any further danger or fear.

Some years ago I saw an instance of this kind in Lombard-street, where a gentlewoman

lost her life thus, by the ignorance of a midwife, who not minding that the after-burthen was closely fastened to the womb, and being for dispatching the delivery, pulled with such violence by the navel-string, that the bottom of the womb followed the after-burthen. Had she been sensible of the inversion of the womb, and brought it back in an instant with her hand, the poor woman might still have been saved, but now died by her midwife's ignorance. I thought fit to insert this account to serve as a warning to midwives, not to act with so much violence, but rather with mature deliberation and judgment.



## OBSERVATION XXXVIII.

*The Delivery of a Woman that had hurt herself,  
and afterwards died of the Small Pox.*

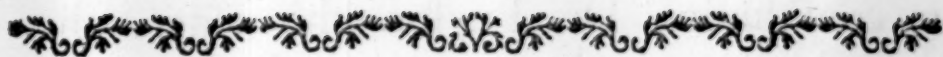
**N**OVEMBER 10th, 1671, I was sent for to a gentlewoman in the Horse-Market, She had had a fall the day before in her shop, and since that, felt a continual pain all over her body, tho' she did not take to her bed. She had been with child about seven months, and told me, that about two months before, she tumbled into a cellar, but without taking  
any

any harm at that time, but now complained of a most violent pain in her hips. I desiring the advice of a physician, Dr. Govet of the faculty of Paris was sent for, who ordered the opening of a vein in the arm and a clyster, which being done, and the last repeated, but without producing any alteration, a third clyster was prescribed of the emollient herbs, with an ounce of common salt, three ounces of honey, and a spoonful of vinegar, which did very well. The night betwixt Monday and Tuesday proved excessive painful to the patient. The next morning the pulse beating very quick, she was let blood a second time. But the pain continuing, and the patient imagining she might be bruised within, I gave her, at her request, a plaister made of Burgundy pitch, rosin and wax equal parts, mixed with a little oil of roses. The same oil we also applied to the painful part. This made the pain move a little, which spreading itself all over the belly, the child appeared in the birth, and was delivered with the next pain, being followed by the after-burthen, about six o'clock in the evening.

For some time after she complained of no pain, but the same soon returning with more violence than ever, continued thus the whole night, betwixt Tuesday and Wednesday; so she was let blood a third time in the arm, against my advice, though she flooded sufficiently.



It was then thought adviseable to call into our consultation Dr. Puyton the elder, the eldest deacon of the faculty of Paris, and a very noted physician. He comforted the patient, telling her, *That he hoped she would do very well*; and ordering another phlebotomy in the arm, the same was performed accordingly in the presence of the physicians. The next evening she was let blood in the foot, having reposed pretty well the night betwixt Wednesday and Thursday. That day and the following, she was without either pain or fever; but the night betwixt Friday and Saturday, both returned more violent than before. However, the Saturday passed indifferently well with her, but on Sunday morning we discovered certain pustules like those of the measles or small-pox, with a black, or rather purple ring about her eyes, shewing the malignancy of her distemper, which was such, that there appeared a mortification of the flesh in those parts of the arm and foot where she had lately been let blood. She was very bad the night betwixt Sunday and Monday. The fever continued, tho' the pain in the hips, which had been very vehement hitherto, was somewhat abated. Another consultation was held betwixt the beforementioned physicians; the result whereof was, *That there was no hopes of her life*. Accordingly she died the same evening about five o'clock.



## OBSERVATION XXXIX.

*The Delivery of a Woman, who had been afflicted nineteen Days with a violent Flux of Blood.*

NOVEMBER 16th, 1671, I was sent for to a gentlewoman in the street of Guene-gand, in St. Andrew's parish. I found her without either sense or motion, having been afflicted with a violent flux of blood nineteen days successively, which was increased within the last twenty-four hours, in spite of all the remedies prescribed by Dr. Lickard, physician of the faculty of Paris, and Dr. de Terre, second physician to the king. Dr. Lickard had at his first coming advised her immediate delivery, as the only means of preserving her life, but the woman opposed it as long as she had any sense left. Notwithstanding which, Dr. Lickard persisted in his opinion, telling the woman, *That in case she was not forthwith delivered, she must expect nothing but present death*, giving at the same time this caution to the standers by, *That though he would not engage for her life, since she had staid so long, yet that all the hopes that was left, was in her speedy delivery.*

Accordingly I being sent for, and urged to hasten as much as possibly I could, I undertook the task, under condition that they would vindicate my reputation against the aspersions that might be made in case the woman should die under my hands; whereupon Dr. Lickard telling me, *That there would not be the least ground for aspersions, they being all eye-witnesses of the dangerous condition of the woman*, I brought my fingers into the passage, and found the inward orifice quite stopped up by the after-burthen. It was split in the middle as far as to the membranes, which being still entire, and the water coming out afterwards, gave me the better opportunity of turning the child, which I pulled out by the feet, but dead (by reason of the excessive flux of the blood) without the least violence, the passages being all very much relaxed, as it commonly happens in all women afflicted with such fluxes.

Hereupon the patient recovering her senses, every one began to conceive hopes of her life, but this lasted not long; for she no sooner had taken a cup of broth, but she swooned again, and remained without sense or motion, but had frequent convulsions, the certain forerunners in this, as well as all other such like excessive evacuations of blood, of the utmost loss of spirits and strength in the patient, as it happened in this woman, who died not long after; wherefore, in such cases as this,  
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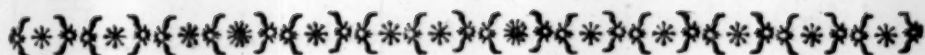


the delivery ought to be dispatched with all possible speed, without which the woman must expect nothing but present death. Of this I have seen divers instances in the hospital of Paris, where I officiated as man-midwife many years, in conjunction with M. de la Cuiffe, and Mr. Bouchet's son-in-law, unto whom I acknowledge myself infinitely obliged for their directions and good advice upon many occasions. And as the first has given a thousand proofs of his ability in this city, and Mr. Bouchet not very long ago in delivering the Queen of Poland, so it must be acknowledged, that the public have sustained a great loss by the death of these two great professors in their art.

But to return to our purpose. The body of this gentlewoman was opened (in the absence of Dr. Lickard and myself) to see whether there were not any miscarriage in the delivery. We had, notwithstanding these unfair dealings, the good fortune to escape the censures of the envious world; a certain lady, the wife of the greatest physician of our age (though unknown to me) and a noted man-midwife and surgeon of our company (who were present) being entirely satisfied in our proceedings, because they found the womb entire and clean in all its parts, and all the vessels quite exhausted of blood, by the long continued flux: I must confess myself infinitely obliged to this lady, who was pleased  
to

to give me such signal proofs of her humanity and impartiality, without which I might have lain under heavy aspersions, there being a certain sort of envious people, who delight in back-biting and reviling every thing, though never so well performed, if an unfortunate accident (though never so unavoidable) gives them the least occasion of flandering others: for it is certain, had they found the least particle of coagulated blood in the inward orifice of this woman, they would infallibly have made it the occasion of her death, though she had the pangs of death upon her before I touched her. This is therefore the reason why many among the men-midwives refuse to meddle with such dangerous cases, though I cannot approve their conduct, which being contrary to the rules prescribed by God, they ought not to prefer their reputation before the public good, but trust to God Almighty's protection.

OBSER-



## OBSERVATION XL.

*The Delivery of a Monstrous Child.*

NOVEMBER the 21<sup>st</sup>, 1671, I was sent for to deliver a woman in the Oak-street. Upon search I found the child to present its neck to the birth; whereupon I conveyed the fingers of my right hand (well greased) gently into the womb, and turning the child, brought it out by the feet (as has been mentioned before) as likewise the after-burthen. The child was born dead, and of a monstrous shape.

This child had on the back part of the head a kind of a friar's cap, of about four inches long, rather roundish than pointed. The membranes *chorion* and *amnios* were joined to the right side of the head just behind the temples, of the breadth of half an inch, and to the womb-cake in its whole circumference. On the same side, above and behind the ear, was an excrescency like a small horn, of the length of half an inch, or something more. On the other side there was such another, but rising somewhat higher, and betwixt both a musculous flesh, without any appearance of brains.

The



The ears were very large for a child of seven months: the crown of the head very hairy, the forehead low and flat, the eyes closed up, and much misshaped.

The nose was exceeding flat; the upper lip split to the nose, like a hair-lip, which made the face look very hideous, though the chin was natural enough.

The right arm was also not misshaped, except that the finger next to the little one, or the third to begin from the thumb, was wanting in the hand; the left arm was shorter than the other, and crooked at the elbow.

The navel-string and after-burthen were as they ought to be, except that the membranes were joined to the head. Both the thighs were natural, but both the feet turned with the toes backwards.

It is almost incredible what strange varieties are observed in nature in the procreation of mankind.

I was about the same time desired by Mr. Corbeau, my brother surgeon, to visit a woman who reckoned herself two or three months with child, and had just then miscarried of a certain substance like the frog-feed, but resembling in shape our garden strawberries, weighing about three or four pounds.

Since that time I was called to a certain gentlewoman lately come from London, where having been under the care of the famous physician and man-midwife, Dr. Maumen, she had always been

been told by him, *That she was not with child,* as indeed she was not. But living now in the street of Maubec, and being seized with a violent flux of blood, I was sent for, and upon search found the inner orifice of the womb open; I asked her, *Whether she had had any advice before?* She told me, *That she had been let blood by the directions of Dr. Mersenna, one of the oldest physicians of the faculty of Paris; since which she was afflicted with a most violent pain.* There was a midwife there before me, but she having already done what she could, I brought my finger (well greased with oil of sweet almonds) into the neck of the womb, and found the inner orifice much inflamed, either by some violent touch, or the corrosiveness of the blood, or by a sharp clyster the midwife had applied, which often occasions dangerous symptoms.

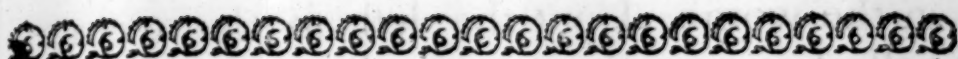
Advancing with my finger further into the womb, I felt a soft substance closely adhering to the inward orifice, which I supposing to be the after-burthen, I separated the adjoining parts from the orifice, without bruising it, when part of this soft spongy substance breaking off from the rest, I brought out a piece of the bigness of a walnut. And the pains continuing, I pulled out a great part of this strange substance, which appeared full of fibres, and white bladders full of water, glistening like crystal, and in shape not unlike our white currants. The quantity I brought forth weighed about two pounds; being in its substance not unlike the  
seed

seed of frogs. Whilst my right hand was within the womb, I put the left to the woman's belly to push the womb downwards, which was of the bulk of a loaf of two or three pounds.

I desired this substance to be kept as long as they could, and took part of it home with me, which I shewed to Dr. Auzon and others, who were much surprized thereat: it turned after some time to water. The woman was very well till within a month after her delivery, when about the time of her monthly courses, she was seized again with a flux of blood, which was soon stopt; and the same thing happening again about a month after, we judged the same to be her ordinary courses, and she has been very well since. She was much addicted to a hot and spicy diet, which I did forbid her.

OBSER-





## OBSERVATION XLI.

*The Delivery of a Woman troubled with a violent Flux of Blood.*

**F**EBRUARY the 16th, 1672, I was called to a gentlewoman in Lombard-street, in S. James's parish, who being very big with child, was seized with a violent flux of blood. I ordered her a clyster, and then let her blood in the arm, which stopt the flux till the next day. Upon search made, I found the inner orifice of the womb opened to the bigness of a French half-crown piece. Two days after the flux returning, she became so weak that I advised her to receive the sacrament, which being performed, and the confessor, her mother, and husband, earnestly intreating me to deliver the child in order to its baptism; I laid the woman, (now without sense or motion) a-cross the bed, desiring that no body would stay in the room, except the midwife and nurse.

Then greasing my fingers with fresh butter for their more easy passage, I brought those of the right hand into the neck of the womb, which being full of clods of coagulated blood, I brought them out by handfulls, and laid them  
up

up in a dish. This done, I conveyed my forefinger into the inward orifice of the womb, and another soon after, and so spreading them by degrees, made a kind of a screw ; and the inner orifice being thus dilated, I put my whole hand into the womb, where the first thing I felt was the after-burthen, I separated it gently from the inner orifice into which it adhered, and advancing higher up with my hand to the membranes *chorion* and *amnios*, I opened them with my fingers, and taking hold of the child's feet, drew them out and baptized them.

Then looking after the after-burthen, I found a piece missing of the breadth of four inches, which I no sooner brought away, but the woman revived in an instant, and told us herself, *That she felt herself pretty well.* But she was no sooner laid in her bed, and her linen changed, but she fell again into a swoon ; I gave her a little wine, but she vomited it up again with great anxiety, occasioned by the vapours arising from the womb ; after that she began to incline to sleeping. I searched her once more, whether there might be any coagulated blood behind, but found nothing but a kind of a plait in the neck of the womb, which at first I mistook for some remnant of the after-burthen, but upon a more strict search, found the same to be a relaxation only of the membranes of the neck of the womb. Dr. Biendisant, a physician of the faculty of Paris, being called to my assistance,

assistance came in by this time, when it was agreed to allow the patient a small quantity of food, as not being able to digest much in so weak a condition. The next day we found her pretty well, and allowed her a little wine, she having been used to it before: but the Wednesday after discovering a defluxion upon her breast, we again forbid the use of it. She was restored to her health by the care of Dr. Biendisant.



## OBSERVATION XLII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the ear foremost.*

**M**ARCH the 12th, 1672, I was sent for to a gentlewoman in the Mint-street in St. James's parish: upon search I found the inner orifice of the womb opened to the bigness of a large French crown-piece, and of a circular figure. The membranes being broken within two or three days, but not perceiving any pains at that time, I went home, but was call'd again in a few hours after. Putting my finger into the passage, I found the inner orifice of the womb sufficiently opened, so that having anointed them well with butter, I brought in my whole hand to discover what part of the child

L

was



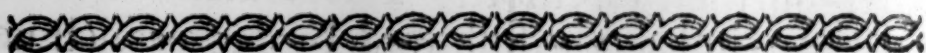
was foremost, which I did, but with a great deal of trouble, it being no easy task to distinguish whether the mouth, the ear or the breech is foremost. Upon which occasion I will give you however these few observations.

When the mouth comes foremost, you feel either the lips, gums or tongue. If the breech, you may discover it by the extremity of the great gut, which is very soft; but the surest sign is, when after the opening of the membranes, there follows black excrements. The ear is distinguish'd by a certain firm adherency to the head, and its touch distinguishable from the other two; which made me also discover at this time, that the child presented the ear foremost, under which lay the arm.

I did all I could to remove it thence, without which I should have found it very difficult to make room for my hand to search after the feet. The head was the next to the passage, but not being able to take hold of it, I was forc'd to let my hand advance as deep into the womb as I could, betwixt the left side of the womb and the child's body. I separated the membranes from the child, and coming in reach of one of the buttocks, I follow'd the thigh to the leg, which lay upon the belly: I guided my hand along this leg to the foot, which I drew out, tho' the passage was very strait, the mother being of so little a size, that she appear'd not to be above twelve years of age, and the child very lusty. But the child's toes  
 2 turning

turning towards the bladder of the mother, I was forced to bring it back again, (for reasons before alledged, and therefore not to be neglected) and turning the child, drew out the same foot again, which having wrapt in a thin cloth, I drew out to the thigh without the least violence; then guiding my fingers along the thigh to feel whether the other thigh did not lie cross this, I perceived it was not so, but that the breech follow'd, and that the other thigh was bent towards the belly. I drew the thigh of the first leg more and more towards me, and the whole body followed by degrees, (tho' I was not a little annoy'd with the child's excrements) as did also the other leg: then keeping them both together, I pulled out the body in a direct line, and after having clear'd both the arms, laid my left hand flat upon the breast, and the right on the neck, I proposed to compleat the delivery without any more trouble; but finding the head to stick in the passage, I was forced to convey the fingers of my left hand along the lowermost part of the neck into the inner orifice of the womb, to discover what was the matter; and finding the chin which stuck to the neck of the womb to be the obstacle, I brought my fingers into the mouth, and with the right hand at the same time giving a pull to the neck, I clear'd the head and delivered the child, which having a black slime (like Cassia) in its mouth, occasioned by the mixture of the excrements) I did wipe

it off immediately, which else might have choak'd it, but now breathed very well to the great satisfaction of the mother, this being the first time she had been brought to bed of a live child. The after-burthen followed with ease, by pulling it only with the navel-string. I ordered the child-bed woman the juice of some four oranges, mixed with syrrup of maiden-hair. And both she and the child did very well afterwards.



### OBSERVATION XLIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the After-burthen foremost.*

**A**PRIIL the 7th, 1672, I was called to a woman in St. Mederic's-street, being in the sixth month of her reckoning, and troubled with a violent flux of blood. I told her immediately, *that without being delivered forthwith, she was in danger of her life.* Dr. Cresse a Paris phyfician, was of the same opinion, and ordered her immediately to be let blood; however we staid a little to see whether nature would help itself, it happening sometimes that such fluxes cease when the child comes to the birth well turn'd. But the woman



man growing weaker and weaker, her husband and friends asked my opinion once more; and I answering, that *the delivery of her was the only way to save her life*, they desired me to delay no longer.

Wherefore I brought two of my fingers (well greased with butter) into the inner orifice of the womb, and finding the same opened to the bigness of a French half-crown piece, I spread my fingers in the nature of a screw, and thus extending it, brought in my hand, and felt the after-burthen foremost. I separated the same to open my way to the membranes, which being opened the water came forth, and I drew out the after-burthen, that it might not be in my way afterwards. Then searching after the child's feet, I took hold and pulled out one, which I baptized; and wrapping a cloth round the foot, I accomplished the delivery of a daughter of six months, after my usual method.

Immediately after the woman recover'd of her swooning fits, she began to breath and speak, telling us, *that she felt herself something stronger*. But relapsed soon after; yet being recovered again by the care of Dr. Cresse, she did very well afterwards. We applied a plaister against the flux, made of the flower of gips (used by the plaisterers) mix'd with the best vinegar, laying it to the belly above the womb, and about the hips. The next day we prescribed a clyster of barley and white bread boiled together, and mix'd with three ounces of honey of vio-

lets ; but the nurse mistaking the matter, took honey of roses instead thereof ; whence it is obvious how careful women ought to be in choosing their nurses ; since by the mismanagement of clysters only, many dangerous symptoms have ensued thro' the carelessness or ignorances of the nurses. Wherefore women ought to pitch upon such nurses as are used to attend in lyings-in, and such as they know that will not be employed in the small-pox and other infectious distempers, which thus may be communicated to the woman in child-bed. All nurses ought to be cautious not to give any medicines to women in child-bed, without the advice of a physician, surgeon, or an expert midwife ; and especially not to apply astringent remedies in the beginning of the flooding, which if it succeeds ill, they are sure to lay the blame upon the man-midwife or midwife. 'Tis but lately that I knew such an ignorant and presumptuous nurse, who in the beginning of the flooding, bathed the gentlewoman under her care, with red wine only ; which stopping the flooding, and a fever ensuing, the patient was forced to be let blood several times in the arm and foot, and yet they had much ado to save her.



## OBSERVATION XLIV.

*Of the Delivery of a Child which came forth with the whole Body as far as the Neck, the Mother not being able to withhold it.*

**M**AY the 16th, 1672, at ten o'clock at night I was called to an instrument-maker's wife, over-against St. Mederic's church. The woman appearing very healthy, told me, that she had felt some pain that morning in her belly, yet so as to be able to go about her business; and that she had borne nine children in eight years time. She added, That she supped very well that evening with her family, but after supper she desired her husband to fetch a midwife: whilst he was gone, she was seized with such violent pains as made her go to bed, but was scarce laid down, when the child came forth with the legs foremost to the neck, which together with the head, did stick in the neck of the womb.

This was the condition the midwife found her in, who delivered the child, but neglected to take effectual care of the flooding, which proved so excessive, as threw the woman into a swooning fit, from whence she never recovered. Had this woman taken the



advice I gave her in the morning, not to stir abroad, this mishap might have been prevented; and had the midwife acted with more circumspection, she might have saved the woman's life. 'Tis true, 'tis a midwife's business to deliver a child in its natural position, but it is also beyond her reach to judge of and remedy all the symptoms that attend deliveries. However, they have this for an excuse, *That they do what they are able to do.*

It were to be wish'd, that young midwives would have more regard to the directions given them by the man-midwives and midwives in the hospitals; tho' it must be confess'd also, that six weeks, or three months (the time appointed for their instruction) is not near sufficient for a thing of so much moment; it being evident, that even such as have been many years at the trade, commit sometimes an error. This may serve also as a convincing instance, how careful big-belly'd women ought to be in their choice of a man-midwife or midwife, in which they ought not to rely upon the recommendation of their acquaintance, but upon the advice of their physicians. Had this woman been mistress of her profession, she might have saved her life. I was sent for, but not till it was too late. I told the midwife her error, which she could not deny; and putting my fingers into the womb, to discover the cause of her sudden death, I felt with the extremities of my fingers another child, which,

which, though it was dead before, I brought forth, and proved a daughter. I lay this down as a general rule, That whenever there appears an excessive flux of blood, the man-midwife, or midwife, must act with prudence and circumspection; yet so, as not to expect the utmost extremity, if it can be avoided.



## OBSERVATION XLV.

*The Delivery of a Child presenting the Head,  
stopped by the Os Sacrum of the Mother.*

**M**AY 26th, 1672, being called to a woman who complained of a most violent pain in her hips, I found (upon search made) that the vast quantity of water had pressed the membranes below the passage. I administered phlebotomy to allay the violence of the pain; but the same increasing, I nevertheless advised the midwife to have patience, to see whether nature would do her own work, especially since it was the first time of this woman's being with child, when the delivery is always subject to more difficulties and delays; besides that, the woman was of a tender and bilious constitution, and lame. Thus I returned home; but about seven o'clock in the

the evening, the nurse was sent to fetch me again. She told me, *That the poor woman was in fits, and senseless, and consequently in a dangerous condition.*

I went immediately and searched her, found the head forwards, but fixed against the *os sacrum* of the mother, who wanted strength to force the birth forward.

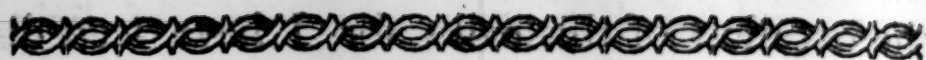
I conveyed my fingers (well greased with butter) gently into the passage, and pushed the head backward without the least trouble, the child swimming still in a good part of the water that was not voided as yet. I dilated the passage with my fingers, and so advancing to the womb, reduced the head to the very bottom of the womb, though it before was got down thro' the inner orifice into the neck of the womb; then I searched for the feet, and meeting with one of the hands, I put it aside, and coming to the knees, guided my hand along the leg to the foot, which I took hold on, and drawing it out, baptized it.

It is worth observation, that so soon as she was delivered, she recovered out of her fits, declaring, *That she was not sensible of her labour.* She did very well afterwards, there not remaining the least footsteps of her fits, except the marks she had given herself by biting her tongue. I leave the investigation of the true reason of these fits to the physicians, since there was neither any putrefaction in the womb, nor a dead child that could be the cause



cause of them. I am of opinion, that the detention of the urine in the bladder may be the occasion of this evil ; for I have seen divers women in labour, who were afflicted with intollerable pains, by the distention of the bladder ; neither could they be delivered, till a probe being inserted into the neck of it, the bladder was discharged of the urine, and the pain allayed. The bladder is a membranous tender substance, having a strict communication with the brain and stomach by the nerves. The woman had her flooding very regular, and passed her lying-in without any ill accident.

Immediately after her delivery, we ordered her a mixture of the juice of three or four oranges, an ounce of oil of sweet almonds, and two ounces of syrup of maidenhair. Two hours after, she had a cup of broth ; her tongue was cured with honey of roses, and a gargarism made of the decoction of agrimony, and the tops of bramble-berry, adding to each pound of this decoction an ounce of syrup of roses, and a drachm of *sal prunella*, which had the desired effect, and restored our patient to her former health. I need not mention what clysters we made use of, the same having been repeated often before.



## OBSERVATION XLVI.

*The Delivery of a Fœtus that was living, though only Four Months old.*

**J**UNE 26th, 1672, I was called to the wife of an officer of justice, in the street Des Arfis, in the parish of St. Mederic. She told me, *That she was in labour, and complained of excessive pains in the lower region of her belly.* I asked her, *Whether she had strained or overreached herself?* She told me, *That a picture was fallen upon her head, whereupon she had been let blood; but within a few days after found some blood and fragments of skins issuing from the womb, which I looked upon as the forerunners of a miscarriage.* I desired I might search her, which being done, by bringing my fingers (well greased) into the inner orifice of the womb, I felt a hard membranous substance, that would not give way to my fingers; it being then my judgment, that we ought not to proceed with too much haste, I told the woman, *That she must have a little patience, and that I hoped all would prove well in the end.*

In

In the mean while I took particular notice of the blood that came from her from time to time, and of her pains, one whereof being more severe than the rest, forced out the beforementioned membranous substance, of the bigness of a large bustart egg, containing a foetus (and the water) as big as a new-hatched chicken, which I supposed to be betwixt three and four months old. The head appeared blackish, like coagulated extravasated blood. The forehead, eyes, nose, mouth, and chin, were well made. The arms compleat, and ribs very distinguishable. The manly members without defect, as were also the legs and feet. I took it into my hand, and seeing it moved all its limbs (though very faintly) in the presence of all the standers by, and the father in particular, I baptized it, and then gave it to the nurse. The membrane that enclosed it was only the *amnios*, the *chorion*, with the after-burthen, being left behind in the womb, which I got thence, but not without a great deal of trouble.

Then I let the woman rest till the next day, when I ordered her the following clyster against the after-pains.

Take a pound of the decoction of mallows, violet leaves, lettuce, purcelain, and white-bread; add to it honey and oil of sweet almonds, three ounces each. This clyster brought forth a kind of false conception, or rather superfœtation, which I suppose was the  
cause



cause of the expulsion of the natural foetus, which commonly happens about the fourth month, it being a great rarity, if a woman under those circumstances holds out her full time, of which I have had frequent experience.

I prescribed her a regular diet, which procured a favourable flooding. She took in each cup of her broth the juice of a quarter of a four orange, a thing that much strengthens and revives the stomach, and clears the kidneys from the urine, all which is of great consequence to a woman in child-bed.



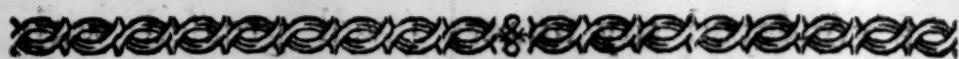
## OBSERVATION XLVII.

*Of a Woman who suffered an excessive Loss of Blood, because the After-burthen was not delivered in Time.*

**J**UNE 29th, 1672, I was sent for to the wife of one of the clerks of the Exchequer, who had lost abundance of blood, because she had not been delivered of her after-burthen in time. She was so excessive weak, that I was doubtful whether I had best attempt her delivery or not; but at the request of the curate of St. John, then present, of her husband's,

band's, and some other relations, I undertook the task.

I conveyed my fingers (well greased with butter) into the neck of the womb, in order to dilate the inner orifice, pretty well opened before by the delivery of the child. I met with abundance of clods of coagulated blood, which I brought out, and then putting my hand to the very bottom of the womb, I found the after-burthen (which was very smooth) adhering on all sides to it. I drew the after-burthen towards me, but very gently, and with great difficulty, by reason of the excessive drought and heat of the inward parts of this gentlewoman, owing partly to her natural constitution, partly to the late flux of blood. This was the reason I could not bring forth this after-burthen but in pieces : for it is to be observed, *That in case the same is joined to the bottom of the womb, it is impossible to bring it out whole, which was our case at this time.* Some few remnants being forced out with the flooding, the woman recovered her strength and health gradually, by the care of Dr. Bryar and myself. We prescribed her an emollient clyster, adding to a pound of the decoction a coloquith apple to be boiled in it, and afterwards an ounce of the *electuarium diapbenici*, which expelled the remnants of the after-burthen with the flooding.



## OBSERVATION XLVIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Shoulder-blade  
and Elbow foremost.*

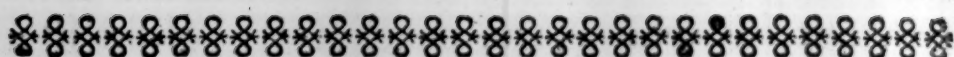
**J**ULY 4th, 1672, I was desired to come to a cook's wife near St. Martin's Gate, whom I had assisted twice before in very difficult labours. The child presented the shoulder-blade and the elbow foremost, which is one of the most troublesome deliveries that well can be, which I also found sufficiently at this time, the woman being (besides this) reduced very low, by the excessive evacuation of blood that accompanied her labour. I brought my hand into the passage as far as I was able, where I met with abundance of slime, and clods of coagulated blood, and some fragments of the membrane called *amnios*, which was broken before, and the water come away.

With the extremity of my fingers I discovered the shoulder-blade, or shoulder of the child foremost, as also the elbow, which I did not meddle with at that time, but advancing with my hand as gently as possibly I could, I perfectly felt the before-said parts that were foremost,



most, and had almost stopped up the passage ; so that finding no further admittance for my fingers, I was obliged to bring both the shoulder and arm back to the very bottom of the womb. Then guiding my fingers from the shoulders forwards along the body of the child to the feet, I took hold of the first I met with, without troubling myself with the other, and drawing out the first foot and baptizing it, wrapt it in a thin cloth, and so delivered the child.

It is to be observed, that at the same time I pulled the first foot towards me, the arm drew back, and the child turned, so that the buttocks and the other foot followed of course; and I wrapped both the feet in the same cloth, and with both my hands pulled out the child to the shoulders. This I was fain to loosen, by conveying two of my fingers along the arm above them, which succeeded according to wish; for this done, I laid my left hand to the child's breast, and my right to the neck, and rejoiced the mother with a lively son. I also delivered the after-burthen, though I was forced to pull it out by pieces, with a great deal of circumspection. I ordered her privy parts to be stopped up with a cloth, and that she should be kept very quiet for two or three days, having suffered extremely in her labour, which was very painful, and by these directions she did very well, both in and after her lying-in.



## OBSERVATION XLIX.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Buttocks  
foremost.*

**J**ULY the 25th, 1672, being called to a shoemaker's wife, I found the child coming with the buttocks foremost, by two infallible signs. First, because I discovered with the extremity of my fingers, a certain hollownes betwixt two soft protuberancies, whereas, when the head, shoulder, or knee comes foremost, it feels pretty hard to your finger. The second was the black excrements like *cassia*, which stuck to my finger; a certain sign that the fundament of the child is foremost, and that the membranes are broken.

Upon mature deliberation I judged it best to have patience, and to endeavour to aid nature only with rendering the passage slippery, by anointing it with fresh butter, or oil of sweet almonds; the first whereof, laid in cold water, I made use of upon this occasion. For I lay this down for a general rule, that in all births, whether natural or otherwise, all violent methods ought to be avoided, as much as possible can be; and in this case, it is certain,

tain, that the child's buttocks will make their way out, as well as the head of the child in a natural birth; though it is not to be denied, but that this proves generally more difficult and painful. Whenever I found the child pressing forwards by the pains and the mother's endeavours, I seconded the same, by extending the parts through which they must pass, not without excessive pain; to ease which, as much as can be, the man-midwife or midwife must take care to extend with the fingers the outward lips, but very gently, without offering the least violence, either to the mother, or the child, for fear of breaking a leg, or thigh-bone. Thus the buttocks, thighs, legs, and feet of the child being delivered, I brought out the head with little trouble, yet the child died as soon as it was baptized, but the mother did very well.





## OBSERVATION L.

*The Delivery of a Child, the Head of which being passed, stuck in the Birth at the Shoulders.*

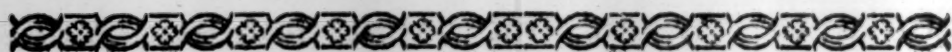
**J**ULY the 25th, 1672, I was called to assist a midwife, who could not by any means (she was able to make use of) deliver a goldsmith's wife, in the street of St. Avoye. I found the poor woman in a desperate condition, the child's head being out, but the shoulders sticking in the birth, and the child being suffocated by the straitness of the outward orifice of the womb: I endeavoured to bring my right hand along one side of the head and neck towards the armpits but in vain; so that I was forced to lay hold on the head with both my hands, on each side one, to endeavour to pull it out thus, with main strength, which succeeded at last, though with the utmost difficulty. Had I been called sooner, I might have saved the child's life, and encompassed the delivery with less trouble; for the child having stood thus an hour in the birth before I came, the privy parts of the woman were much swelled, by the continual and violent handling of the midwife,

wife, and the excessive bulk of the child, which I measured out of curiosity, in the presence of divers women, and found it no less than three quarters of a French ell (or an English yard) long.

I twisted the navel-string about my left hand, to serve for a guide to my right, to the bottom of the womb, where finding the after-burthen closely joined to the substance of the womb, I searched all about with my fingers to find a place where it did not adhere so closely to it; but not meeting with any, I brought them to the lower part of the after-burthen, and peeled it off with my fingers gently and gradually, like as the bakers do with dough or paste stuck to a table, the extremities of my fingers being conveyed in betwixt the inner orifice of the womb and the after-burthen. I found the womb much thicker in the place where the after-burthen had stuck to it, which after it was once loosened, I brought out, by pulling only the navel-string with my left hand, and it weighed betwixt three and four pounds.

The mother was very well till the 6th day after her delivery, when complaining of excessive pain in her privy parts, I felt, and upon search made, found certain hard swellings, and looking nearly upon them with a candle, found them to be small running ulcers. She at first applied a poultice made of the pulp of pippins, and the unguent of *populeum*; but that not

answering my expectation, I desired Mr. Gekow, my brother surgeon, to apply some leeches to them. He also opened her a vein, and after the flooding ceased, she did very well. The child was lost through the want of strength or knowledge of the midwife, which may serve as another convincing instance, that in such like deliveries, the man-midwife or midwife ought not to want either resolution or conduct



## OBSERVATION LI.

*The Delivery of a Woman reduced to the utmost Danger of her Life, by a most violent Flux of Blood.*

**A**UGUST the 24th, 1672, I was sent for in Shoemaker's street, to the wife of one of my brother surgeons, being in most imminent danger of her life, by reason of a most violent flux of blood, which had so exhausted her strength, that no less than four of the most noted physicians of Paris, viz. Dr. Kikebeuf, Dr. De Mersenne, Dr. Akakia, and Dr. Bricet, required her to take all the Sacraments; which being done, they desired me



me to endeavour her delivery, as the only means (next to God) to save the woman's life.

Accordingly searching with my fingers (well greased with oil) to the inner orifice of the womb, I found it open to the bigness of two thirds of an inch diameter; which being told to the physicians, they desired me to proceed, and to endeavour the dilatation of the opening, in order to deliver the woman. I made hard shift to convey my three middlemost fingers, one after another, into the orifice, which being somewhat more extended, I brought in also my thumb and little finger, and so with all my fingers made a kind of *speculum matricis*, or screw, by spreading them by degrees, till the orifice being extended sufficiently to admit my hand, I brought it to the bottom of the womb, and at its entrance found the after-burthen placed just before and quite a-cross the whole inner orifice, which had actually been the occasion of the flux of blood: for, by the opening of the orifice, the said after-burthen, then being loosened from that part where it adhered to before, and the vessels containing the blood torn and opened, produced this flooding, which sometimes is so excessive, as proves fatal to the woman, unless it be speedily prevented.

Having separated the after-burthen, I conveyed my fingers to the innermost part of the

womb backwards, where meeting with the membranes not as yet broken, I opened or pinched them through with my fingers, and the water issuing forth (notwithstanding my fingers being in the way) this gave me opportunity to find the feet, one whereof I took hold on, brought it out and baptized it. Then wrapping the foot in a cloth, I drew out the leg to the buttock, and examining in what station the other leg was, I found it bent upon the belly; for in case it had been turned backwards, I should have been necessitated to push back the buttocks to bring it out, without which precaution it would be in danger of being broken; but now being satisfied of its position, I pulled stoutly towards me, and brought forth the whole body to the shoulders, and then putting my left hand to the breast, and the right to the neck, the child followed, though in a very weak condition, partly by reason of the great loss of blood of the mother, partly of the narrowness of the passage, which in those non-natural births are never so open as in the natural ones; besides, that, in these tedious labours they are apt to swell, which occasions great trouble to the man-midwife and midwife, and excessive pains to the woman, much beyond what is found in natural births. The after-burthen being separated before, followed without much trouble. The father (my brother surgeon) did not imagine the child could be born alive; but

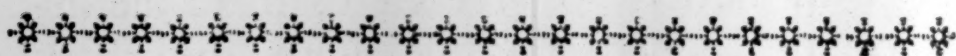
but I ordered the midwife (immediately after its delivery) to lay it before the fire, and to put the after-burthen, with the string remaining to the child's navel, in a pan with wine, and keep it warm over the fire; we also spouted some of the best wine in his eyes, nose, ears, and other parts of the face; we wrapt it up all over in cloaths dipped in warm wine, which we changed so soon as they began to cool; we also held bruised onions to the nose and mouth, by which means the boy revived, and did very well afterwards, as well as the mother.

This observation ought to serve us for a rule, *That whenever a woman is seized with a violent flux of blood, and that there is the least hopes of a delivery, the same ought not to be delayed, but put in practice with as much forwardness, as is generally practised in acute diseases.* However, among all the different sorts of non-natural births, our present case is one of the least difficult, because the membranes not being broken before, you meet with the child in the water, and consequently easily to be turned after their opening; besides that, the coming away of the water moistens the passages, and consequently promotes the delivery.

In the year 1683, I delivered no less than five women under the same circumstances, among whom not one miscarried. One of them, living at the sign of the Red Rose upon  
Our



Our-Lady's-Bridge, I delivered in the presence of Dr. Finot, a learned physician of the faculty of Paris, and of Mr. Franchet, my brother surgeon. This woman was quite senseless when I delivered her, occasioned by the great loss of blood she had sustained. She continued in continual swoonings for two days after, but recovered at last, and has been well ever since.



## O B S E R V A T I O N    LII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Hip foremost.*

AUGUST 29th, 1672, I was sent for to the wife of a court solicitor, in the street Des Arsis, near St. James's. She was in a very hard labour, and the child turned with the hip foremost. But for fear of putting her into a fright, she was told, *That I was only sent for to let her blood (to stop the excessive flooding)* which being done accordingly, her husband desired to let me search her, which she agreeing to, I found the matter as I told you, according as I had been informed by the midwife before. I declared to the woman, *That it was high time for her to be delivered,*  
for

for fear of losing too much blood. And her husband asking me, *Whether I desired the advice of a physician.* I answered him, *That I was always very glad of their assistance;* so Dr. Lombard, a noted physician of the faculty of Paris, was sent for; but he staying above an hour, and the woman being in excessive pain, and the child in great danger of life, I was desired to proceed without him.

Accordingly having well greased my fingers with butter, I conveyed them to the inner orifice, where meeting with the thigh and a hip of the child, I brought it gently on one side (for fear of breaking it) without much trouble, the inner orifice being as wide as the neck of the womb, and the child very small, though strong and lively. I took hold of one foot, which I drew out, and then baptized it; afterwards wrapping it up in a linen cloth, I pulled it towards me, and the other leg, as well as the whole body, followed without much trouble, which proved a lively daughter, notwithstanding she had voided before the *meconium*, or black excrements, contrary to what is asserted by Mr. Viardel, in the 4th chapter of his observations, page 75, viz. *That upon search made of a certain woman, he met with the said excrement, and thence judged that the child was dead, adding, that no body before him had made this observation.* Not to dissemble my opinion, I think him absolutely in the wrong, it being notorious among

mong the men-midwives, *That of an hundred children that come with the fundament foremost, at least fourscore are born alive, though they always void these black excrements.*

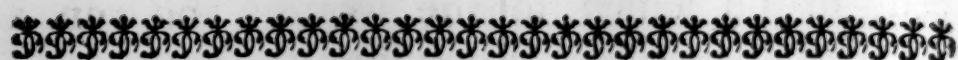
I now began to look for the after-burthen, which I endeavoured to pull out with the right hand by the navel-string (part whereof was round my left, when instead thereof I touched with my fingers certain membranes, which giving me a shrewd suspicion that there was another child behind, I put my hand within the womb, where I felt the child enclosed in its membranes. But fearing, not without reason, that the first-born child might be weakened too much, unless immediate care were taken of binding the navel-string, I did it with a four-doubled string, two inches breadth from the belly, and another two inches thence, cutting the navel-string betwixt the two knots (as has been shewn before) to keep the blood within the vessels belonging to the after-burthen, without which, the mother might have been much impaired in her strength, and disabled to bring forth the second child. This done, I conveyed my hand into the womb, where I found the child still remaining in the water, which made me open the membranes (and this you may do without the least hazard, either to the mother or child) and finding the child presenting its back, I turned it without much difficulty; so that the head now being foremost,

I re-



I rejoiced the mother with the hopes of a speedy and safe delivery, which happened accordingly after two or three pains; when, without any further assistance, she was well delivered of another daughter, which being very lively as well as the first, were both baptized afterwards in the church. There was not above half an hour's difference betwixt the birth of these two children; which being of the same sex, I was curious to see whether each of them had its peculiar after-burthen or not; wherefore putting my hand gently into the womb, in order to their separation, I found that each had its own after-burthen, not adhering in the least to one another. The mother told me, *She was a twin herself*. She had a very good lying-in, and looks very well, though I have delivered her several times since.

OBSER-



## OBSERVATION LIII.

*The Delivery of an After-burthen, left behind by the Midwife, to the great Danger of the Woman in Child-bed.*

SEPTEMBER 5th, 1672, I was sent for to a gentlewoman living near the Milk-Stone, in the parish of St. James's, and reduced to great distress, by reason the midwife could not bring out the after-burthen. I conveyed my hand to the bottom of the womb, and finding the after-burthen adhering in all its parts to the womb, I began with the extremity of my fingers to separate gently and gradually the lowermost parts of it; which done, I pulled by the navel-string (as yet entire and very sound) and at last thus separated it from, and brought it out of the womb, though not without great trouble and pain, both to myself and the woman, who however did very well afterwards.

In such cases as this, it is the safest way to look for the after-burthen at the bottom of the womb; this method being much preferable to what is practised by some upon such like occasions, viz. to pull it out violently by the navel-

navel-string; because if the after-burthen happens to be joined to the womb, you run a manifest hazard of inverting its bottom, of which there is no danger, in case you separate the same before-hand with your fingers, which you may do without the least fear or danger.

I cannot forbear to take notice upon this occasion, that the method proposed by Mr. Viardel in his 17th chapter, page 132, is no less dangerous. He tells us, *That he delivered one Mrs. Parisot of twins, the first coming readily with its after-burthen, but the second (which he pulled out by the feet) without the after-burthen; the same adhering closely to the substance of the womb; he did grease it several times with butter, and thus at last with the help of a sternutatory brought it out.* He also tells you, *That this woman was afterwards affected with a relaxation and bearing down of the womb, but does not mention the cause of it, which might in all probability be attributed to his violent manner of managing the matter.* I look upon this method as too dangerous, and consequently not to be followed in the bringing out of the after-burthen, unless the passages should prove excessive strait; and even then, there are notwithstanding other remedies that may be applied with much more safety than the sternutatory. The same author gives us another observation of his in his 26th chapter, page 189. He says,  
He



*He delivered a woman of a child, after having first been forced to pull out its brains, but was not able to bring forth the after-burthen, notwithstanding he tried all internal and external remedies; so that the whole womb being infected with a gangrene, occasioned by the violent pulling out of the child (according to his own confession) the poor woman died in a miserable condition, though the after-burthen came away some time before, he having found means to protract her life for two days, by proper cordials, fomentations, and injections.*

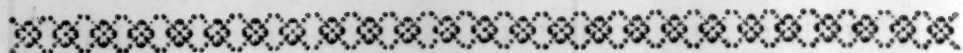
In my opinion, he would have done much better to have conveyed first his fingers, and afterwards his hand into the womb itself, where after having peeled it off gently and gradually from the substance of the womb, he might have brought it out without so much violence, and consequently without bruising the interior parts, and causing such excessive pains to the woman. 'Tis certain, that this method is much more safe than what is proposed by him; besides, that such perverted rules tend only to misguide young beginners in their profession, who follow the same at the expence of the lives of such poor women as have the misfortune to fall into their hands: and for this reason it was, I thought myself obliged not to pass it by in silence, since it is very obvious to me, that in all probability he might have saved the life of this woman,  
had

had he left nature to its own course, and instead of these violences endeavoured to help her with easy, cooling, and emollient clysters and fomentations.

I must further observe upon this head, that in his 27th Chapter, page 194, he prescribes an injection to be made into the womb of brandy, a thing I can by no means approve of, nothing being more ridiculous than such unaccountable ways of proceeding, which commonly end in the destruction of the patient, as it happened with this, who, he says himself, died within two days after ; the very vapours of the brandy enclosed within the womb, being sufficient alone to produce very dangerous symptoms, and at last death itself.

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OBSER-



## OBSERVATION LIV.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Arm and Shoulder foremost.*

September 16th, 1672, I was called to a gentlewoman in St. Mederic's street. The child appearing in a very unnatural posture, and the midwife having stayed too long before she sent for me, the woman was reduced to a very low condition, the water being gone before, and the womb and child sunk very low, with the arm and shoulder foremost. I laid her cross the bed, to come at her with the more ease, and then endeavoured with all the strength I had to bring back the arm and shoulder, but to no purpose, this being one of the most troublesome cases that can happen to a man-midwife, especially if he be not called in time. However, since a woman must not be left in distress, I got my hand into the womb, as well as I could, along the arm that presented itself in the birth, and perceiving the feet to lie very deep to the bottom of the womb, I was obliged to search for them as far as ever I could reach ; at last I got hold of one foot, which whilst I was pulling towards me, the



the arm that was before in the passage drew back within the womb of course, and the other foot following the first to the orifice of the womb, I joined them both close together, and delivered the child, which proved a daughter, and alive, contrary to the sentiments of the midwife, who was very positive (before I began the delivery) that the child was dead, and told me, *That for that reason she had baptized it in time.* The after-burthen followed, and the woman did very well, both in and after her lying-in.

The same author, whom we have had occasion to mention in the preceding Observations, says, page 233, *That in case a child, supposed to be dead, comes with the shoulder foremost, you may make a hole with your fore-finger in its belly, and thus with your finger bent, turn the child with its feet to the orifice of the womb;* but this gentleman forgot to tell us, *How he could bring his hand into the womb, before he could make such a hole with his finger in his belly.* We must suppose his finger to be as hard and sharp-pointed as the hooks are that are generally used upon such occasions, or else the child's belly to be as rotten as a pear, without which it is impossible to do it, as I have told already before. I remember, I made this experiment once upon the belly of a child of five months old, but with all the strength I had, could not make a hole in the belly with my finger; and what likelihood is there of his

having done it with a compleat child in the womb; which makes me imagine, that the said author had imposed many of his opinions, instead of experiments, upon the world.



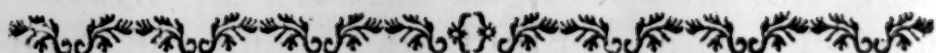
### OBSERVATION LV.

*The Delivery of a Child which came doubled, with the Navel-string and After-burthen foremost.*

September 21st, 1672, I was sent for to a woman in the Cutler's street, at the sign of the Cross of Lorrain. The child presenting itself doubled, with the navel-string and after-burthen foremost, the midwife did not know what to do in the matter. I made hard shift to bring my hand along one side of the child's body, the thigh and leg to the foot, which I pulled out and baptized. This done, I wrapped about it a piece of cloth, and took care that the lips of the privy parts were freed from the hair, a thing I have not taken notice of before, and yet of such a nature as ought not to be neglected by a man-midwife or midwife, because if it happens to be long, it may stick to the cloth, and so by pulling forward, you create excessive pain to the woman. Whilst I was pulling

pulling out the one leg, I took particular care to see whether the other was laid crossways or not, for fear of breaking either the thigh or leg. I drew out the child to the shoulders, and so further to the head; but this would not follow, the passage being very strait in a woman pretty well advanced in years, and who had never borne a child before. It cost me a great deal of trouble before I could clear it, which I did at last, but not till the child was dead. I also delivered the after-burthen after my usual method, *viz*, by holding the navel-string with my left hand, and pulling the after-burthen out with the right.





## OBSERVATION LVI.

*The Delivery of a Woman, the Child presenting the Elbow and Shoulder foremost.*

September 27th, 1672, I was sent for to a woman, the wife of a wine-cooper in the Shoemaker street. She had been already twelve hours in hard labour, attended with frequent pains, without any considerable advancement of the birth, tho' the membranes were broken, and the water come away. I asked the midwife, *What part of the child came foremost?* who told me, *the arm, and that the head came next.* I replied, *If the case stood thus, we might hope for a tolerable good delivery, but that we must have patience.* However, the woman in labour, being very urgent to be searched by me, I anointed my hands with butter, and had no sooner brought them into her privy parts, but found them much swelled, either by the violent touching of the midwife, or the overstraining of the woman herself.

Advancing further with my fingers into the neck of the womb, I met with the child's elbow bended, and of a bigger size than ordinary. This discovery made me go deeper into  
into

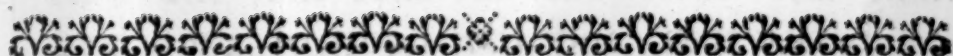
into the womb, to find out whether the midwife was in the right or not ; in which I soon discovered her mistake, it being the shoulder, and not the head, that followed the arm, which I told her ; desiring at the same time, to leave the whole management of the matter to myself.

Then laying the woman cross the bed, I conveyed my fingers a second time into the passage, and finding that the child's arm and shoulder had quite stopped up the inner orifice of the womb, I did all I could to bring them back ; but this not succeeding, I was forced (as has been observed before) to bring my hand within the womb, a thing not to be done in such a case as this, without a great deal of trouble and pain to the woman, which might in all probability have been prevented, had they called for seasonable assistance in time, before the interior parts are so far forced into the passage, and before the coming away of the water ; which, if rightly observed, would save abundance of trouble to the man-midwife, and of pain to the poor woman. Wherefore I give this advice to all understanding midwives, *That, Whenever they find the child not well turned, or any thing else different from the natural course, they ought to lose no time ; it being certain, that the interior parts are best disposed at the beginning of the labour.*

Accordingly I went to work, and conveying my fingers as gently as could be into the womb,

I took hold of one of the feet, and whilst I was pulling the same out towards me, the arm drew backwards, and the body of the child taking quite another turn, the delivery was performed with much less difficulty. I pulled out the leg to the buttocks, and the cloth I had made use of before being very bloody and wet, I took another dry one, wherewith I brought out the child, with much ado, to the neck; I was afraid the head might be disjoined from the trunk of the body, the child being dead some time before; but at last, (through God's blessing) the delivery was safely accomplished. I also brought forth the after-burthen after my usual way: I found the navel-string somewhat inclined to a putrefaction, but the rest of the body appeared pretty sound, except that the skin was in some places separated from the musculous parts, and was covered with a slimy greenish substance, such as we see upon the surface of standing waters in marshy grounds. The after-burthen had also contracted an ill scent, notwithstanding which, and the hard labour of the woman, she did very well during her lying in.





## OBSERVATION LVII.

*The Delivery of a putrify'd Child.*

**N**OVEMBER 24th, 1672, I was called to a woman, the wife of a tapestry-maker, where meeting with the doctors Govet, Dengau and Matot, all three noted physicians of the faculty of Paris, and with Mr. Chatiou the surgeon, they told me, *That several expert men-midwives having been there before to view her they had all refused to meddle in the matter, except one, who had proposed to fetch out the child with proper instruments.* They also told me, *That she had made use of clysters, of phlebotomy both in the arm and foot, and of several fomentations, but without any visible advantage.* A certain pretended doctor had also given her a laxative draught, without the knowledge of the other physicians (as it is the practice of these quacks) but without any success.

After some consultation, it being resolved that I should try my fortune to deliver the woman, I brought my right hand into her privy parts, in order to advance with my fingers into the neck of the womb, but found the child's head very soft, and giving way to the touch

touch of my fingers. At the same time laying my left hand upon the woman's belly, I felt there two different swellings, the biggest whereof I judged to proceed from the bulk of the child, and the second from the extension of the bladder, the woman having evacuated no urine for a considerable time before; which last also proved the cause of most of the symptoms.

I represented the whole state of the case to the before-mentioned physicians, who all agreed with me in opinion, *That since there was no way left to turn the child, it must be brought forth by the means of a hook.* But as I was not provided with such like instruments at that time, I desired leave to go home and fetch them: but her husband positively refused to let me go; saying, *That if I did, I would not come back, no more than several others had done before;* so I was forced to make use of my fingers as well as I could, but to no purpose. I left nothing unattempted to put back the child's head towards the bottom of the womb, in hopes to open (by this means) a free passage for the urine, (the head of the child pressing hard upon the urethra) and for my hands into the womb, to catch hold of its feet, but without success. I then endeavour'd to make a hole with the extremity of my fingers into the child's crown of the head, but found it impracticable, which convinced me of the falsehood of what the before-mentioned Mr. Viardel has asserted in the

34th chapter, page 237, of his treatise, viz. *That having brought his hand within the womb of a certain woman in labour, he pressed the woman's belly very close downwards, and with two of his fingers made a hole into the child's head, and took out its brains, keeping both his fingers bent in the nature of a hook, towards the os sphænoïdes.*

But to return to our own operation. Finding I could not succeed with my fingers, and being destitute of an iron hook, I was forced to make use instead thereof, of an iron ladle, with a hook at the handle, wherewith entering betwixt the seam, or opening of the scull, I endeavour'd to break thro' the first membrane that encloses the brain with the extremity of my fingers; but finding it thus impenetrable, I opened it with a spatula, and then bringing in my fore finger, fetch'd out the brains by degrees, in order to press the head closer together, and consequently to remove the stoppage of the urinal passage, or urethra. This succeeded so well, that the woman evacuated a great deal of urine; and this evacuation having opened a free passage for my hand and hook to enter the womb, I brought the last into the child's mouth, and drew out the child's head beyond the outermost orifice of the womb; but the body sticking by the shoulders, I was forced to fasten a string about the child's neck, to draw it towards me with the more strength. I at the same time desired Mr. Rosiers,



Rosiers, another surgeon there present, to take hold of the string, whilst I greased the head of the child with my fingers to further the delivery: but this succeeded not; for the whole carcass of the child being much putrified, the head was separated from the neck, the shoulders sticking in and filling up the whole passage, so that I scarce knew what to do. At last I found means to bring my fingers under one of the child's arm-pits, which succeeded so well, that I could pull out one of the arms first, and afterwards the second; which done, the rest of the trunk of the body followed without much difficulty.

After this I fastened the navel-string about my left hand, whilst I conveyed my right into the womb, where I found the after-burthen joined so close to the substance of the womb, as if it had been pasted to it; yet I happily delivered it.

The woman in the mean while being grown very weak, and her pulse, which beat very quick and unequal, discovering the ill disposition of her body, the doctors prescribed her a cordial; the water of carduus, fyrrup of lemons, and the juice of some four oranges to further the flooding. The next day she had also a cooling and emollient clyster applied, mix'd with two ounces of honey. I gave her a visit the same evening, and finding her privy parts inclining somewhat to a putrefaction, I ordered them to be fomented with salt, or seawater.

water. Her fever increafing, ſhe was let blood the fifth day in the foot, and two days after in the arm, which perfected her cure, except that ſhe was troubled with an involuntary emission of urine, by reaſon of the relaxation of the ſphyncter of the bladder, occaſioned by the ignorance of a certain ſurgeon, who would have brought away the urine by the means of a catheter. However, by the care I took of this troubleſome accident, ſhe alſo recovered of that about three months afterwards, and has ſince that time borne ſeveral children, without any further inconveniency.

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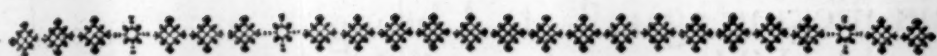
### OBSERVATION LVIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the feet foremoſt, with the heels turn'd towards the fundament.*

**D**Ecember the 3d, 1673, I was ſent for to a cook's wife, living in the valley of Miſens, and found the child with the feet foremoſt, but the heels turn'd towards the fundament of the mother, and the toes to the *os ſacrum*. I did all I could to turn it; but not being able to effect it, I was forced to bring it out in the ſame poſture I found it; viz. *With the*

*the face turned towards the os sacrum ; but the chin sticking against it, I brought my fingers into the child's mouth, and thus delivered the child ; but upon view of the head, found the os parietale bent in several places. I met once with such another, the 16th of October, in the same year, in a woman in St. Jeffrey's-street, whose child had a hollowness in the left os parietale, of the length of two inches breadth, and the depth of the sixth part of an inch, which appear'd natural, tho' it ow'd its cause to an accident. This child having a black spot upon the lip, as if it had been bruised, I ask'd the mother, *Whether she had received any hurt or blow upon the belly ;* who answer'd me, *That she did fall upon an iron-bar.* This child did live only half an hour, no more than the first. I engag'd Dr. Pecquet to enquire with me into the true cause of this disaster, but could investigate no more, than that the mother told us, *That she had hurt herself in the sixth month of her bigness, by running against a cross bar, belonging to the shutters of windows.* The mothers of both these children did very well after their delivery.*





## OBSERVATION LIX.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Back foremost.*

December the 12th, 1673, I was called to the wife of a shoemaker, in the street of Orleance. I convey'd my hand thro' the passage into the womb, and finding the child with the back foremost, I guided it along the buttocks, thighs and legs to the feet, which I drew out, and wrapping them up in a cloth, brought out the child, the exterior skin of which was separated from the rest, just like a serpent that casts her skin. The woman being very drop-fical, had a tumour on the outside of her belly, which tho' without the least coherency, or relation to her swelling, occasioned by her bigness, yet vanished immediately after her delivery; and notwithstanding this water, as well as the after-burthen, had already contracted a very nauseous scent. The woman had a very good lying-in, and has been very well ever since; for her flooding appearing kindly, the water was convey'd off along with the blood in eight days, and so recovered to a miracle.

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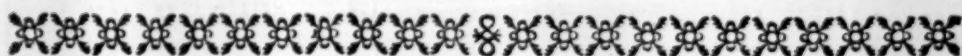


## OBSERVATION LX.

*The Delivery of Twins, one of them in its Natural, the other in an unnatural position.*

**J**ANUARY 5th, 1674, I was sent for to a shoemaker's wife in the White-mantle-street. I deliver'd her of twins; one a boy, the other a girl; the first in a natural, the second in an unnatural position. I found but one womb-cake, or after-burthen, but two navel-strings and four membranes fastened to it, *viz. Two skins with its peculiar water to each child.* This observation contradicts the before-mentioned Mr. Viardel's assertion, when he says in his 6th chapter, page 35. That, *whenever a woman is deliver'd of twins of the same sex, there is but one after-burthen belonging to both; but if they prove of a different sex, there are no less than two after-burthens; and this he alledges as a peculiar piece of providence in nature.* I shall have occasion to say more hereafter of this error of Mr. Viardel; it being certain, that each child is always enclosed in its peculiar membranes and water, without which it cannot subsist in the womb; but as for the womb-cake, or after-

ter-burthen, it happens frequently that there belongs no more than one to two children. The child swims in its water like the yolk of an egg in the white ; an egg also has its proper membranes ; the first, which becomes hard, is like the *chorion* of the foetus ; and the interior one, like that called the *amnios*.



## OBSERVATION LXI.

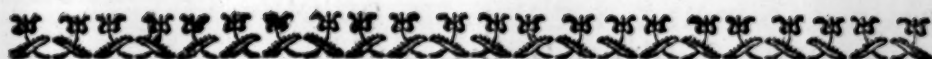
*The delivery of a Child, the Arm whereof appeared to the Shoulder without the Womb.*

MAY 8th, 1674, I was called by a gentlewoman to go along with her to the village of Noisy Le See, to deliver a woman, who had been nurse to a nephew of Dr. Le Bel, chief physician to her Highness the Dutchess of Orleance. The child coming with his hand foremost, the arm to the shoulder appeared below the womb, the rest of the body being fixt upon the inner orifice, and the arm filling up the whole passage, which was very strait, as well as the womb itself ; besides that, the water was come away twenty-four hours before I was called thither. Being informed by the midwife how far she had proceeded in furthering the delivery, I searched the woman, and endeavoured



your'd with my fingers and hand (as well as I could) to bring back first the shoulder, and then the arm : for it is to be observed, that in such cases as these, the part next to the womb is to be reduced backward first, and so the other successively, as I did at this time.

For I guided my fingers along the child's arm, to dilate the passages to the womb ; I at last conveyed it to the child's head, which I found bent upon the breast towards the belly. Upon further consideration what was best to be done, I removed the head a little (it being in my way) to come at the feet, one whereof I found bent backwards to the buttocks ; I did all I could to pull the foot towards me, which succeeded so well, that as the foot came forward, the arm drew backward ; so that the second foot soon following the first, I pulled out the child (which was dead) by both the legs, and the after-burthen following without much trouble, the woman did very well, both in and after her lying in.



## OBSERVATION LXII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Backside foremost.*

**J**ULY 16th, 1674, I was sent for to the house of Mrs. la Marche, a noted midwife, living in the isle of our Lady, near St. Lewis, to assist in the delivery of a certain gentlewoman. Having received all the information I thought requisite from Mrs. la Marche, I found (upon search) a certain black slimy excrement (the *meconium*) upon my fingers, which making me judge that the child was coming with the backside foremost, I told the woman in labour, that she must strain and bear downwards with all her strength, which together with the force of the child (which was very lively) broke the navel-string about four inches from the child's belly, so I was forced to take hold of it with my left hand, to prevent the effusion of blood and loss of spirits in the child, whilst with the right I brought forth the child, and immediately tied up the navel-string: Then I endeavour'd to draw out likewise the after-burthen by the navel-string; but finding it fastened somewhere within, I convey'd my hand along it into the

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womb,

womb, where I met with other membranes filled with water, and consequently judged that there was another child behind.

I had no sooner opened the membranes, but an arm of the second child coming out along with the water, I reduced the same backwards into the womb, and guiding my hand along the shoulder, ribs, and so further along the same side of the body, the thigh and leg, to the foot, which I had no sooner brought out, but the other follow'd, and as I was pulling out the first, the arm drew back by degrees.

Mr. Viardel tells us, in his 3d. chap. pag. 18. *That in case the child is come to its full perfection, it breaks the membranes with its feet, and afterwards turning its head downwards to the inner orifice of the womb, endeavours to open its own passage, in order to deliver itself from its confinement, unto which the coming away of the water contributes considerably, by rendering the passages soft and slippery.* But I am of opinion, *That if it were the child that with its feet breaks the membranes, they would not bear down so deep into the passage, neither would appear bulky and filled with water, like a hog's bladder.*

However, thus far may be affirm'd, *That if the child's head does not appear in the birth soon after the breaking of the membranes, and the coming away of the water, it is a sign of a long and difficult labour.* Thus as long as the water of a woman flows only slowly and thro' a small opening, the delivery is not as yet at hand, because



cause the pains are as yet only strong enough to force out the water, but not the child, which does not force its way outward, till after the coming away of the water, whence the men-midwives and midwives have their proverb, *That as the water decreases, the labour and hopes of a sudden delivery encrease.*

This further judgment may also be given of the membranes; viz. *That when they appear round and much swelled with water in the orifice of the womb, it is looked upon as a sign of a natural and forward labour; tho' this rule is not universal, because in case the child comes with the buttocks or a shoulder foremost, the rotundity and swelling of the membranes appears in the same manner, as in the natural births: if on the contrary, the membranes appear of an oblong figure at first, they take it for a sign of an unnatural travel.* Some midwives say, *That the membranes appear at first, according to the shape of that part that comes foremost.*

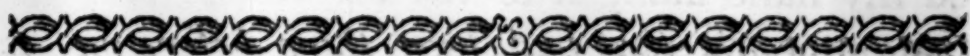
When you find the membranes sufficiently extended by the water, but not able to break, by reason of their thickness, you must open them either with a sharp or acuminate grain of salt, or the point of a needle; and the membranes being thus opened either naturally or artificially, and the water following as it ought to do, the child follows commonly, after two or three succeeding pains. But to return to our present operation: this second child proved a daughter, but not so big as the first. I ty'd up the

navel-string in two places, and cut it betwixt the two knots; and now proceeding in my work to fetch out the after-burthens, I was surprized to meet with more membranes, well extended with water; I open'd them, and a third child appear'd (as the water was flowing off) with the arm foremost; I turn'd it after the same manner as I had done with the former, and safely delivered it: it proved of a larger size than the two others, but the navel-string much shorter.

I now thought it high time to look after the after-burthens, and beginning with that of the first child (being thicker than the rest) I guided my hand along it to the undermost part of the after-burthens (holding the navel-string all this while with my left) which I there separated, being strongly joined together by a thick membrane or skin, part of the *chorion*, and all three enclosed in the same, as the three learned physicians, Dr. Lalier, Biendisant and Bricet can testify, unto whom I also plainly shew'd, that each of these womb-cakes, or after-burthens had its peculiar two membranes, which had before enclosed each its child in its water, tho' the after-burthens were, as I told you, joined together.

But finding that there was wanting some part of one of the membranes, called *amnios*, I put my hand once more into the womb, and discovered a certain round and hard substance, which had some motion, and adhered by a skin,

not unlike that of a goose's foot, to the womb, as if it had been a womb-cake; I separated and brought it out, and upon full view it proved a *mola*, or superfetation, of the bigness of one of the balls that they play with usually in the Pall-malls. The three first mentioned children were all baptiz'd in St. Lewis's church; I visited the mother for fourteen days afterwards, and the three children did very well all that while, as well as the woman: I have had divers other such deliveries in my practice, but forbear to mention them, to avoid needless repetitions.



## OBSERVATION LXIII.

*The Delivery of a Child torn in pieces in the womb.*

**D**Ecember 22d, 1674, I was called to a woman in labour in the New-street of St. Denis. The midwife despairing of being able to deliver the woman, had sent for a noted man-midwife of Paris, who had done all he could to accomplish the delivery, but without success; for finding all his art and strength to fail him, he had left her in the lurch. Hearing how matters stood, I convey'd my fingers thro' the neck



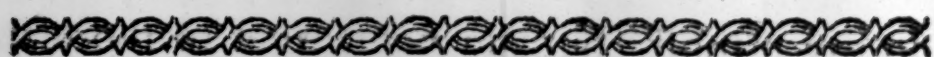
of the womb, within the inner orifice, where I found an opening or hole of the bigness of my fist, and the guts, as well of the woman as of the child, fallen thro' it into the womb; this made me soon to draw back my hand, and to ask the midwife, *Whether she had had a hand in this disaster*; she answer'd me, *No; and that she should be very sorry if she had.*

The poor woman in labour thereupon told me, *That the before-mentioned man-midwife had so managed her for two hours, that she was sensible she could not escape with life, but that all her desire was to deliver her, in order to see the child baptiz'd.* I told her, *That I could not undertake so difficult a task, before I had spoken with the man-midwife that had been there before me, to desire him either to accomplish the delivery, or at least to be an eye-witness of what I did.* The man-midwife being sent for, excused himself from coming, whilst I perswaded the woman to provide for her soul, by receiving the sacraments. In the mean time Dr. Doutee, a famous physician of the faculty of Paris, being sent for, I fairly stated the case to him, shewing him one of the arms of the child, with the string remaining about it, wherewith the man-midwife had torn it from the body, as also another string he had left on one of the child's legs, which may serve as convincing instances, that the use of strings in hard labours is not proper at all times, but only under certain circumstances.

There was not the least reason to question the child's death, and that of the mother was at hand ; yet she urged me without intermission to deliver the child, in order to have it baptiz'd, tho' it should hasten her death ; and Dr. Doute moved with compassion, persuaded me to gratify her request. I must confess, I would never advise a man-midwife to meddle with a business of this nature left by another, unless he thinks himself secure of success, it being certain, that the last bears all the blame, tho' he be never so innocent. I was too sensible of this maxim, as well as of the present danger of the patient at this time, yet at her earnest intreaties, and the persuasions of Dr. Doute, I resolved to do my utmost, but did not forget to represent to him the hazard I put myself into, by undertaking such a task, which being quite desperate must needs tend to my disreputation. To be short, I brought out the child, but torn in such a manner as I related before, with the guts hanging out into the very neck of the womb (before its delivery) whereof I desired the doctor to take notice before I laid hand to the work. The doctor ordered her nothing but a nourishing diet, and to send for a priest to take care of her soul ; which done, we departed.

Upon this occasion I can't but recommend this as an infallible rule to all men-midwives and midwives, not to be too hasty in their proceedings, but to wait with patience, till matters

matters are brought to maturity, and in the mean while assist nature, by dilating and preparing the passages with smoothing remedies, as fresh butter and such like. They ought constantly to have before their eyes, that God is an eye-witness of their rashness, and therefore should never prescribe, or give any remedies to women with child, without the advice of a good physician, in case one is to be had, without which they can never expect the blessing of God Almighty, who will not deny them his assistance, if they proceed with due care and diligence.



## OBSERVATION LXIV.

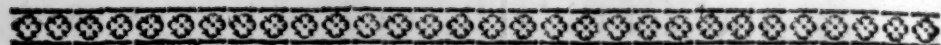
*The Delivery of a Child with one Side foremost.*

**A**UGUST 20th, 1675, I was sent for to a lock-smith's wife in the street of Charenton, in the suburb of St. Anthony's. The child presented its left side foremost, and its bulk being extraordinary, I suspected it to be dropfical, as indeed it proved afterwards, the woman herself being of a very ill habit of body.

I convey'd my fingers (as I used to do) into the womb, and taking hold of the feet brought them



them out to the buttocks, when I observed the child to piss, but for fear of a mistake, desired the midwife, who was an old experienced dame, to give her sentiments of the matter; and she agreeing with me in opinion, I told her, *That the same was occasion'd by the straitness of the passage pressing upon the bladder of the child, which proved to be a girl.* The urine continued to come for a considerable time as clear as rock water; but fearing the child might be stifled in the birth, (in case it should be alive) I did all I could to pull out the first leg (wrapt in a cloth) till the other following I brought forth the whole child, but without any signs of life. It was about seven months old; its joints being very tender, I had somewhat strained the knee; for the child's belly being much swell'd, I had much ado to bring it thro' the passage, without any further violence, for fear of tearing the leg from the body. The midwife said, *She had never seen so nice a delivery before.* I did also fetch out the after-burthen, which was much putrified, notwithstanding which the woman did very well, both in and after her lying-in.

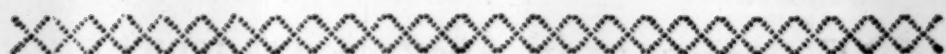


## OBSERVATION LXV.

*The Delivery of two After-burthens joined together.*

September 14th, 1675, I was sent for to a poor woman, to deliver her of twins, being a girl and a boy. The first presenting her hand, I convey'd my fingers along the arm to the shoulder, and thence along one side of the body, till I could reach the feet, one whereof I brought out and baptiz'd; and having wrapt the foot in a cloth, I delivered the child in the same manner as has been often mentioned. Then bringing my hand into the womb in search for the after-burthen, I met with other membranes full of water; I opened them, and the child coming like the former, I manag'd and deliver'd it in the same manner. They were both of one bigness. I pull'd the navel-string of the girl (being the first born) to try whether the after-burthen would follow; but finding it fastened to the womb, I brought in my fingers and hand, and separated the same on its lowermost part, and then it came forth with little trouble, as did also the second. Taking a view of the after-burthens,

thens, I found them joined together by a strong membrane or skin, of the breadth of four inches, tho' for the rest, each of them was entire by itself, and had its peculiar membranes belonging to them; for I separated them with great care, to convince myself in opposition of what has been asserted upon this head, by the so often mentioned author.



## OBSERVATION LXVI.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Face foremost.*

MARCH 7th, 1676, I was called to a woman in the Baillets-street. Finding the woman extended almost quite naked before the fire, I ask'd the midwife the meaning thereof, and seeing the child's face presented itself in the midst of the exterior lips of the privy parts, with the forehead towards the mother's fundament, I gave the midwife a reprimand, telling her, *That she ought to have proceeded with more circumspection and patience; unto which she answered, That this being the first time that she ever saw a child appear thus, she had taken it for a monster, and was almost frightened out of her senses.*

Having



Having well anointed my fingers with butter, I brought them in betwixt the lips of the privities, and the forehead and cheeks of the child, in hopes of extending the parts by degrees ; but finding this unsuccessful, I convey'd them betwixt the forehead and the lower part of the *vagina* or passage, lying just above the gut or fundament, the pressing with my fingers being follow'd by a violent pain, the child's head came out, and I laying both my hands, one on each side of the ears, pulled out the whole body. The face was very black, but was soon cured by bathing it with a little warm wine. I have delivered several women, whose children came with the face foremost, and always without any great difficulty, it being only to be observed, *That in such cases, no violence must be used, but nature be left to its own course ; which done, there is no danger either of the mother or child.*



## OBSERVATION LXVII.

*The Delivery of a Woman having a Tumour in the inferior Region of her Belly.*

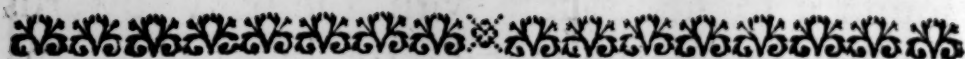
OCTOBER 26th, 1678, I was call'd to a woman in the street called Maubec, having a tumour in her lower belly, about the region of the womb, of the bigness of a large ball, which pressing so hard upon the *sphincter* of the bladder, as totally suppressed the urine, Dr. Biendisant, physician of the faculty of Paris was sent for, who ordered her divers remedies, and ordered me to draw away the urine, by the help of a catheter, which I did effectually. I had often occasion to make use of the same instrument afterwards, but with much more difficulty, she beginning to grow weary of this operation, and the tumour pressing so close upon the bladder, that there was no passage for the instrument. One day, after she had refused to admit of the catheter, the extension of the bladder, by the detention of the urine, caused so violent a pain, that she was glad to crave my assistance; but finding it impossible to bring in the catheter, I had recourse to a fomentation made of the decoction

coction of mallows, althea, of violet leaves, the pellitory of the wall, and linseed; this being applied to the belly relaxed the parts, and making way for the catheter, she evacuated a good quantity of urine, which allay'd her pain; but this being of no long continuance, she began to be soon weary again of this operation, but applied herself to a midwife, who purg'd her for three weeks, but without any remarkable relief. She then had recourse to another midwife, who ply'd her with medicines day and night, but with no better success than the former. Next she used the advice of another doctor, who gave her a drink of his own preparation, which evacuated abundance of matter as black as pitch, notwithstanding which, the swelling remained in the same state and condition as before, being easily to be grasp'd with one's hand, tho' the woman was near four months with child; but afterwards it was scarce discernable on the out-side, the woman complaining only of feeling a heavy weight within her, and a most violent pain in her hips.

In the seventh month of her bigness she was seized frequently with a flux of blood, so as to evacuate about two pounds of blood at a time. But on the 25th of October, 1678, (in the eighth month of her being with child) the flux returning with greater violence than before, she sent for a midwife, who (upon search made) was of opinion, that she could not be delivered



delivered as yet; however, a doctor there present order'd her a slender phlebotomy against the next day. The following night the midwife was called again, but persisted in her former opinion, that there was no alteration since she had left her. However, the poor woman growing weaker every hour, Dr. Biendifant was sent for out of his bed, who agreed to a phlebotomy; but the woman was reduced to so low a condition, by the continued loss of blood, that within a few hours after she expir'd. She was open'd immediately, to save (if possible) the child, which was a boy, but without the least appearance of life; besides which, there was a *mola* or false conception (or rather a superfetation) of a musculous substance in the womb; which, upon an exact view, we found joined to the foremost part of the womb, by several strong ligaments, and cover'd with a peculiar membrane; it weigh'd about a pound; part of the after-burthen of the child adhered to this *mola*, which was also so closely join'd to the womb, that we were forced to pull it off with some violence. We dissected the *mola*, which appear'd on the inside like a piece of veal, but without any blood.



## OBSERVATION LXVIII.

*The Delivery of a Child, the one Arm where-  
of stood quite out of the birth.*

**J**UNE 17th, 1678, at ten o'clock in the morning, I was called to a woman in labour, in a joyner's house, in the street de Berry au Marais. The child's arm appear'd quite without to the shoulder: the midwife had indeed endeavour'd to bring it back, but to no purpose, the arm being much swell'd, by its long continuance in the passage, and perhaps also by the violent management of the midwife; besides that, the said arm was squeez'd in very hard in the inner orifice of the womb. I did all that possibly I could to reduce it back into the womb; but finding it impracticable, I convey'd my hand along it, endeavouring to dilate with my fingers the inner orifice of the womb, to open my way into it, laying sometimes my left hand upon the woman's belly to keep her steady down. After I had thus brought my hand within the womb, I could distinctly feel every part of the child. The first was the neck, then the head, lying on one side towards the mother's fundament; and  
guid-

guiding my hand along the child's body, I found it to lie double with the belly towards the bottom of the womb, the knees bent, the legs under the head, and the left arm cross the legs: if I could have taken hold of a knee, I might have delivered the child then; but I thought it more safe to go further to the leg, which tho' not so much involv'd in the membranes of the after-burthen, yet I could not bring it out without great trouble, because of two main obstacles; first, the head lying across the inner orifice of the womb, I was forced to remove it first, to prepare a freer passage for the feet; the second was the arm, which likewise obstructed the passage.

It also happened unfortunately, that my hand being at that very time seized with a benumbedness, I was not able to keep the foot, which occasioned me no small trouble; for though my hand soon recovered, yet the foot being drawn back from the place where I had brought it before, betwixt the head and the neck of the child quite bent behind the shoulder, I had much ado to bring it again (without danger to the child) to the inner orifice of the womb; besides that, it was as slippery as an eel, and thus several times slipp'd out of my fingers, till at last I wound it up in a fine linen cloth, and so pull'd it towards me with all my strength. I heard some of the child's limbs crack in pulling out, which made me fear their being broken, but it was unavoid-



able. I having occasion of all my strength to deliver it, without which the mother must have been in evident danger of being lost, which ought to be prevented by all possible means, especially after the child has been baptized.

Whilst I was endeavouring with all my strength to pull out the child, the mother assisted me so effectually, that the thigh above the leg, which I had in my hand, coming out at once to the arse, the arm drew insensibly backwards; then conveying my fingers into the womb, to see how the other thigh was laid, I found the leg lying upon the belly, and so brought it out with little further trouble.

I must confess, that such deliveries as these require a great deal of resolution in a man-midwife, which ought not to be undertaken rashly, but only when the mother, as well as the child, are in danger of being lost. These misfortunes generally owe their origin to the ignorance of the midwives, who often don't require any further assistance, before the womb becomes quite dry, and the child is settled very low in the womb.

Having got out both the legs, I pulled the rest of the body to the shoulders (with incredible pains) and the head follow'd at last, as did also the after-burthen, but much torn, being somewhat putrified, and of a dark green colour. The navel-string appear'd also very putrid; yet the child was born alive, and appear'd of a natural colour, notwithstanding the

the hardships it had endured in the birth, but died about half an hour after, the reason whereof may probably be attributed to the ill disposition of the after-burthen, whence the child receiv'd a corrupted nourishment.

The delivery being thus accomplish'd, I order'd the mother a mixture of an ounce of oil of sweet almonds, two ounces of syrrup of maiden-hair, and the juice of three four oranges, a remedy of great efficacy for women lately delivered; but care must be taken, that within two hours after its taking, nothing of food be given to the patient, for fear of occasioning a vomiting, which might produce a relaxation of the ligaments of the womb. The next day I found her without a fever, and order'd her a clyster of the decoction of lettuce, mallows, althea and violet leaves, each a handful, adding to it three ounces of honey. The woman did very well during her whole lying-in, tho' she was no less than forty years of age; she lived upon very nourishing food, and had daily two clysters apply'd of the before-said decoctions, with the addition only of an ounce of expressed oil of walnuts to each clyster.



## OBSERVATION LXIX.

*The Delivery of a Woman affected with a most violent flux of Blood.*

**J**ANUARY 11th, 1679, I was called out in the morning at four o'clock, to deliver a gentlewoman in the street called Gervais Laurent, at the foot of the bridge of our Lady, in the parish of the Holy Cross. This gentlewoman being about eight months with child, was seized with a most violent flux of blood, which having continued for ten or twelve days, she was reduced to a miserable condition. Upon search made with my fingers (well greased) I found the whole *vagina* or passage filled with clods of coagulated blood, notwithstanding which the flux continued. As soon as I had brought out the clods of blood, I convey'd my fingers further into the inner orifice of the womb, which I found very thin and soft, and so wide, that I could put in three of my fingers foremost; I search'd with one finger first and found the after-burthen foremost, and closely joined round the inner orifice of the womb, which was the occasion of the excessive flux of blood; and as  
it



it had reduced the woman to a very low condition, so this join'd to the other circumstances, made me fear the life both of the woman and child.

I desiring therefore the assistance of a physician, Dr. Biendisant was sent for, who finding the poor patient not in a condition to dispense with many remedies, prescrib'd her only a mixture of purslain and plaintain-water, three ounces each ; half a dram of the confection of hyacinths, without musk ; prepared pearls, one scruple, mix'd with an ounce and a half of the fyrrup of pomegranates. This stopp'd the flux for a while, yet not quite ; so that her weakness encreasing every minute, it was resolved to have her deliver'd, notwithstanding the great danger that must needs attend it ; but considering her death was infallible, unless she was delivered, I went to work ; tho' as I laid her cross the bed, there appear'd in her not the least signs of sense or motion, so that every body concluded she would die under my hands.

However, I found some means to convey my hand (well greased before) into the inner orifice of the womb, where I again felt the after-burthen fasten'd to it, as I had told Dr. Biendisant before : I peel'd it off by degrees, and brought it out ; and then turning my hand again in the womb, the first thing I met with, was the navel-string, along which I guided my hand first to the child's belly, and then

downwards to the thigh, and thence lower to the leg and foot, which I brought out and baptiz'd. Whilst I was pulling this foot the other follow'd, and the whole body after it, as has been observed frequently before. The child being quite alive, the parish priest of the Holy Cross (who had before administered the sacraments unto the mother) had the opportunity of baptizing it, tho' contrary to his and all our expectations. Immediately after the delivery, the woman recovering in some measure her senses, Dr. Biendisant prescrib'd her the following cordial: of succhory and bugloss water, three ounces each; of the confection of alkermes without musk, half a drachm; of prepared pearls, one scruple; and syrrup of maiden-hair, two ounces.

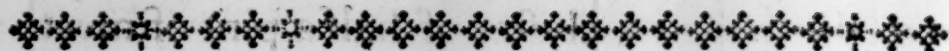
About two hours after she was ordered to take half a cup full of broth only, for fear of over-charging her stomach. She was much better the next day, yet not without some symptoms of a fever, against which a clyster was ordered, made of the decoction of the cooling herbs, with three ounces of honey.

The second day after the flooding stopp'd; she recover'd again by the use of the before-mention'd cordial. However she complained of a tension and pain in her belly (which was much swell'd) as also in her hips, wherewith she had been affected before her delivery: she was also afflicted with a violent pain in the head (the ordinary symptom of all excessive  
fluxes

fluxes of blood) which continued even after her lying-in, with an intermittent fever: she was also troubled with frequent bileous dejections or a looseness, against which we prescrib'd her clysters of the decoction of emollient herbs, with linseed; yet after some time this woman recovered her health, except that three weeks after her lying-in, she lost the sight of one of her eyes, by a violent defluxion, which by all the art that could be devised, was never removed thence. The cause of this disaster I attribute to a sharp, viscid and bileous humour contained in the veins, which being put in motion by the violence of the pain this woman suffer'd during her labour, and the anxiety of mind she lay under, was carried upwards and settled in the head.

**OBSER-**





## OBSERVATION LXX.

*The Delivery of Twins, one with the Buttocks,  
the other with one Eye foremost.*

**D**Ecember 19th, 1679, I was 'sent for in St. Mederic's-street to a lady of quality, the wife of a public minister of one of the greatest princes of Germany, then residing at Paris. He received me very courteously; and when I told him, *That I looked upon it as a singular honour, to have deserved so good an opinion from him, as to commit what was dearest to him in the world to my care*; He told me, *That he thought he could not put her in better hands than mine*. I enquired of the lady, *How she felt her pains*; She reply'd, *Such as she had never felt before in her life, being very violent, and having lasted already twelve hours; besides that, it was the first time of her being with child*. She was let blood once already in the arm, which I repeated with her permission.

Then anointing my fingers well with butter, I found (upon search) that the membranes were broken, and that the water came away; but for the rest, the birth stood so backwards as yet, that I could not discover any thing further.

further. The midwife being one of the most prudent women I knew, I order'd her to apply to the patient a clyster of half a pint of meat broth, three ounces of honey, and two ounces of oil of sweet almonds. This clyster gave some little ease; yet not so, but that the pains continued very violent all that night. I did not stir from her all that time; and upon a second search at six o'clock in the morning, I felt with the extremity of my finger a child with the buttocks foremost, on the right side of the neck and inner orifice of the womb; and on the left side I felt one eye. As I was sensible how difficult a task it would prove for the head to open its passage, as the case stood, I put the head backwards, for the better conveniency of searching after a foot, which being got into my hand, I drew it out and baptized it; then wrapping a cloth about it, I continued to draw towards me, and the other leg being bent upon the belly, the body of the child follow'd in the same manner as has been often observed before. I brought out the after-burthen by pulling only by the navel-string; but finding some part of the membrane *amnios* to be left behind in the neck of the womb, whilst I was looking for it, I felt the head of another child (the same whose eye I had discover'd before) which came into the world in its natural position with its after-burthen. They proved two handsome girls, each having its peculiar after-burthen. The child-bed lady  
did

did extreamly well, and was highly satisfied with the method I commonly made use of with women in their lying-in. I order'd her frequently small emollient clysters and fomentations of the decoction of barley and chervil, tho' she was not in the least bruised during her labour, which proved very hard, this being the first time of her lying-in. Both the young ladies continue in good health to this day.



## OBSERVATION LXXI.

*The Delivery of a Child with its right Arm quite below the Womb.*

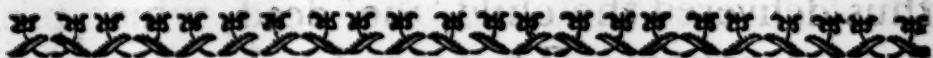
**F**EBRUARY 16th, 1680, I was called to a woman in labour, living on one side of the bridge of our Lady. She was very young, small of stature, of a melancholy constitution, and this the first time of her being with child. She had been in labour for some time before, the whole arm of the child being got already into the *vagina* or passage, the navel-string lying close to it, doubled about the length of a foot; but feeling very cold, and without any pulse, I judg'd it high time to hasten the delivery, concerning the method whereof much  
has



has been said already before ; yet this being the most troublesome, I thought fit to oblige the reader with this also, to demonstrate to the world, that this way of proceeding is the easiest both for the woman and man-midwife.

Having therefore well greased both my hands with fresh butter, I went to work, but did not think fit to put the arm backwards, instead whereof I guided my hand along it up to the shoulder ; but finding it impossible to stir it, I convey'd my fingers along the child's body (which lay across with the head to the right side of the womb) and met with the other arm, but without meddling with it advanced to one side of the head, and felt the after-burthen at the bottom of the womb, yet did not meddle with either of them, my business being to look for the feet. At last I found one knee intangled in part of the membranes, which I turn'd, and at last reach'd one leg and foot, which I wrapp'd immediately in a cloth ; and whilst I pulled it towards me with the right hand, I dilated with my left the outward orifice of the womb, and then brought the before-mentioned arm backwards, which I need not to have done, had the child been alive ; for then the arm draws back of course, and the foot comes forward ; and so it happen'd in some measure here, tho' the child was dead ; the arm going inward gradually, as the foot came out, which being all over besmear'd with the *meconium* or black excre-

excrements, I wrapp'd it in a fresh cloth, and thus delivered the child, tho' dead, which proved a daughter. The after-burthen which I brought forth soon after, was a French ell, or five quarters of an English yard long. Whilst you are busied in bringing away the after-burthen, you must admonish the woman not to force downwards, because it will hinder the turning and operation of your hand in the womb: Care ought also to be taken that every thing be quiet, the noise of the standers by being prejudicial to the man-midwife as well as the woman in labour, who ought to abstain, at that time especially, from all sweet-scented things, which occasion sometimes very troublesome symptoms. I order'd our woman to be kept from talking, and as quiet as possibly could be; and for the rest, gave her some easy remedies, such as were most consistent with her poverty.



## OBSERVATION LXXII.

*The Delivery of a Child, the Back of which  
was bent quite double.*

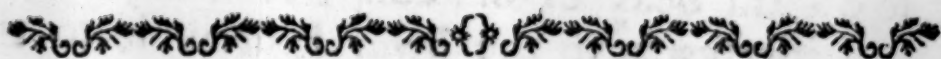
**F**EBRUARY 16th, 1681, I was called at four o'clock in the morning to a gentlewoman in St. Mederic's-street. The midwife telling me immediately that the child was not well turn'd, I desired her to lay the woman in labour a-cross the bed; this done, I convey'd my fingers (well greased) into the *vagina* or passage, the better to extend it; I felt with my fore-finger the inner orifice of the womb, of such a bigness as to admit a passage for my hand to the bottom of the womb, where I found the child bent double with its back, with the two thighs upon the breast, and the two legs, each on one side of the head, which was turn'd to the bottom of the womb; the face foremost, and the feet backwards. The after-burthen adhered to the side, and the navel-string was betwixt the thighs and buttocks. I did not perceive the least signs of life, but getting hold of one of the feet that was next at hand, I pull'd it towards me, but soon found the womb so contracted by the coming



ing away of the water, that I began to despair of my being able to turn the child.

However, pressing along with my hand under the body of the child, first to the toes, and afterwards to the heel, I drew it to the outward orifice of the womb and baptized it, tho' there were no signs of life. This done, pulling stronger and stronger the thigh follow'd, as also the other leg: I then wrapp'd them both in one cloth, and thus brought out the child to the shoulders, when laying my right hand to its neck, and the left upon its breast, I accomplish'd the delivery. I must not forget to tell you, *That after the legs and thighs came out, the navel-string appear'd betwixt the buttocks, extended as straitly along the back as the string of a lute.* This obliged me to turn the child a little backwards, and thus bending one leg a little, I loosen'd the navel-string, which else might have been torn in pieces, and have proved mortal to the child (by the great effusion of blood) in case it had been alive, which now shew'd not the least appearance of it. The after-burthen follow'd by pulling only the navel-string; and the mother did very well during her lying in, complaining only of certain pains in the belly, against which I order'd a fomentation, made of the decoction of camomil and melilot flowers, of wormwood, motherwort and linseed, to be applied with warm cloths, and renew'd as often as they cool; by the use  
of

of these remedies the patient fully recover'd her health.



### OBSERVATION LXXIII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the hind and uppermost Part of the Head foremost.*

**A**PRIL 23d, 1681, I was sent for to a gentlewoman in labour in the Emperor's street. Upon search I found the inner orifice of the womb open, and scarce of the thickness of the twelfth part of an inch, and much extended, which appearing to me as a thing very extraordinary, I search'd with my finger round the whole circuit of this inner orifice, which I found ready to give way, like a piece of parchment after it is well wetted. However, the pains increased, the inner orifice became somewhat thicker, and its opening of the bigness of a French crown-piece; and the membranes being now by the reiterated pains forced most violently into this orifice, they broke, whence came forth the water, mix'd with a bloody and thick slimy substance.

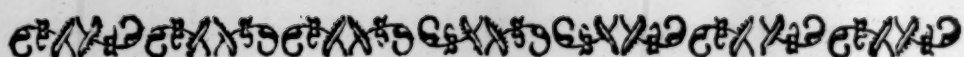
I found the hindermost and uppermost part of the child's head foremost, which having been (as the mother declared) without any  
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motion

motion above a week before, we concluded it to be dead ; besides that, the mother having been very ill for a long time before, was reduc'd to so weak a condition, as not to be able to further the birth. However, the head got out, which appear'd covered with a greenish slime ; but the shoulders being stopp'd in the inner orifice, I pull'd hard by the head, yet as gently as I could, for fear of separating the head from the trunk of the body, which was not a little putrified, as appear'd by the skin that covered the face and neck. I had at last the good fortune to bring it out entire, tho' the skin was peel'd from the belly, which was full of water, and the navel-string quite putrified. The after-burthen closely adhering to the inner orifice of the womb, I was obliged to loosen it with my fingers, and then brought it out entire with its membranes, tho' in that there also appear'd some signs of putrefaction.

The woman declared after her delivery, *That she had gone eight months and a half according to her reckoning* ; whereupon I had the curiosity to enquire from what day she began her reckoning ? she told me from the 28th of August, being the 14th day of the moon. She was delivered the 23d of April, being the 16th of the moon ; so that according to this computation, she was exactly delivered in the ninth month. The same observation I have made in divers other women ; and among



mong the rest, in a certain gentlewoman, who being very ill, did not cohabit with her husband for some time, till being somewhat recovered by the country air, and her monthly times appearing in due course, she cohabited with her husband in the month of July 1680, on the 28th day of the moon, and I deliver'd her the 29th day of March 1681. The same I have (as I told you) observed in many other women, who had gone according to their reckoning no more than eight months compleat and one day; which makes me to be of opinion, that this reckoning ought to be regulated rather by the course of the moon, than of the months.



## OBSERVATION LXXIV.

*The Delivery of a Dropsical Woman big with Twins; one come to its Perfection, the other of betwixt four and five months, quite putrified in its membranes.*

**J**UNE the 1st, 1681, I was sent for at two o'clock in the morning to a dropsical woman, who reckoned herself big with child full nine months: as she was speechless and scarce able to fetch her breath, I found her confessor there to take care of her soul. It was Mr. Hageard, a person of known probity, who having given her the extream unction, he as well as I, were of opinion, that nothing but an extraordinary chance could save the woman's life. But as at so unseasonable a time we could not get a physician, I felt her pulse, which beating pretty lively, I let her blood, and succeeded so well, that she recover'd her speech, and somewhat of her strength; so that Mr. Hageard and I went home.

But the same morning about seven o'clock, being sent for again, I found her actually in labour, the child with its right buttock foremost, which may easily be discern'd thro' the membranes

membranes during the intervals, when the pains cease and the membranes slacken, which is quite otherwise, whilst they are extended by the pressure of the water downwards: within a moment after they broke, and the water came away; I convey'd my fingers thro' the passage along the child's buttock and leg to the foot, which I drew out gently (to spare the mother, who was very weak) and baptiz'd it. I wrapp'd it up in fine linen cloth, and as I pulled towards me the other leg follow'd, and the woman was deliver'd of a perfect well-shap'd daughter, but dead, tho' without any signs of putrefaction.

As I was advancing with my fingers thro' the passage to look for the after-burthen, I perceived there was a second child behind, enclosed in its peculiar membranes, which proved a foetus of betwixt four and five months, and so putrefied, that the limbs could scarce adhere to one another, which necessitated me to pull it out by pieces, taking effectual care to save the mother, as much as possibly I could. There were two after-burthens, but joined together, both very much shrunk together and hard, like the rind of bacon; both the navel-strings appear'd very well, and in their natural stations. It seems surprizing, that one of these children should be perfect and entire, come to its maturity without the least putrefaction, and the other in such a putrefy'd condition, as we have described it; perhaps it died

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betwixt



betwixt the fourth and fifth month, and proved the cause of the dropfy in the mother. And tho' each of these two children remained all the while in their peculiar membranes and water, and had its peculiar after-burthen, without any communication with one another, yet it seems hard to be conceived, how in the same concavity, such as the womb is, there should be contained at once two children, and one of them to appear sound and perfect in all its parts (tho' dead) and the other quite putrified. I will leave the full decision of this problem to the physicians; yet if I may be permitted to tell my opinion, I look upon this preservation of the dead child like what we see in dead bodies under water, which, unless they are exposed to the air, will remain there uncorrupted a great while. Add to this, that the child remains in its proper natural water and place it has had its beginning in and substance, and consequently is not exposed to any thing heterogeneous to its nature.

But to return to our observation: the woman being deliver'd, expected every minute would be her last; but the flooding proving very kind and natural, she mended a-pace. I gave her immediately the juice of four oranges with some fyrrup of maiden hair, which I seldom fail to give to such child-bed women, as are under my care, if the same is to be had at all. The next morning she had an emollient and dissolvent clyster apply'd to her, and another  
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at night, with two ounces of oil of sweet-almonds, but without honey. The same was repeated the following day, being Tuesday, when she felt somewhat feverish, but would eat bread and meat broths; nay, meat itself, in spite of all our persuasions to the contrary. To tell my opinion in this case; *A woman lately delivered (provided there appear no symptoms of a fever) may eat immediately after her delivery, as well as the beasts do (be it spoken without comparison) as sheep and such like, who return immediately to their natural pasture; I see no reason, why a woman, who is a rational animal, should not in the same manner make use immediately of such a proper diet as God has allotted for that purpose.* And for my part, I freely confess, I never did deny those under my care the use of a little solid meat (unless they were feverish) and I never observ'd any inconveniency in it, till the time the milk begins to stir, when I order them for three days to abstain from solid meats, and to feed upon broth and eggs.

The Wednesday and Thursday she had the same clysters as before. On the Sunday she must needs eat some strawberries, tho' we opposed it, and her legs continued much swell'd. Monday she had a clyster again of the before-mention'd decoction, with three ounces of honey. Every morning and night she used a fomentation of the decoction of barley and chervil. The Wednesday following she sent

for two noted physicians, Dr. Cresse and Dr. du Chesne, who, tho' they could prevail upon her no more than we, to abstain from solid meats, yet at last cured her totally of the dropfy. They were much surpriz'd at what had pass'd before and at her delivery.



### OBSERVATION LXXV.

*The Delivery of a Child with the whole Arm hanging out of the Womb, but very black and putrify'd.*

**J**UNE 8th, 1661, I was sent for to a gentlewoman, living in the isle of our Lady, in the street of Deuxpont, in St. Lewis's parish. I found her in so deplorable a condition, that I must confess in all my practice for thirty years last past, I scarce ever met with one worse than this; and for this reason it is, that I thought fit to insert this observation, tho' I have treated upon the same subject before; this being highly remarkable for the nicety of the case.

The midwife told me, *That the membranes were broken, and the water come away ever since two o'clock after dinner, which was eight hours before my coming, it being then ten at night; that*  
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so soon as she had found the child not well turn'd, she had desired further assistance, but that the woman's relations had delay'd it till now. Upon search made, I soon discover'd the danger and difficulty that would attend both the woman and me in this delivery, for the child was dead and much putrefy'd, and one arm quite black hanging out of the womb; and what render'd the case much worse, both to her and myself, was, that the passage was much inflam'd and swell'd, which made me judge, that somebody had been at work there before, and I was confirm'd in my opinion, when the midwife would not directly answer me upon that point, when I asked her, but remained silent. I understood afterwards, that they had employ'd a certain man-midwife, who, after having for seven hours tried all his art in vain, left her in the lurch.

Tho' as I told you before, the passage was much inflam'd and swell'd, and the arm very black, yet being resolved to go thro' with the work, to endeavour the delivery of a poor woman, almost seiz'd with the pangs of death, I endeavour'd to convey my fingers (well greased with butter) into the *vagina* or passage, but found it impracticable, without hurting them, the whole circumference being swell'd (at least) half an inch round, and the womb itself closed up and hard, as if there were not the least appearance of a child, feeling almost like the exterior bark of a tree. At last however,  
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with incredible pains and difficulty, I brought my fingers into the womb; but they were immediately seiz'd with such a benumbedness, that I was forc'd to draw them back; and when I attempted the same a second time, I was again forc'd to desist for the same reason, which vex'd me to the soul, and made me complain of my hard fortune; but being resolutely bent to leave nothing unattempted, I resolved to deliver the woman by whatever means I might possibly encompass it; and for want of better advice, I was forc'd to make use of my own; I pull'd by the arm, which thereby was separated from the body, yet without the least hurt to the mother, and without any other instrument but my bare hand. I pull'd out the arm in hopes now to get more room to convey my fingers into the womb, which I did, but being seized with the same benumbedness in my hand, I was forc'd to desist a third time. I must tell you upon this occasion, that tho' I was forced to separate the arm, I would not advise you to follow the same method, which I did not approve of, the true way being to bring in one's fingers and hand into the womb, to separate the feet, and thus to draw out the child, without which it is impossible to bring out the child, without hurting the woman, or making use of proper instruments, never to be apply'd, but in cases of the greatest necessity.

Being recovered a little from my weariness, I went to work again, and convey'd my hand  
(well

(well greased with butter) into the passage, but the same benumbedness as before made me to stop a little, till at last getting my hand again to the bottom of the womb, I search'd for the feet, but met only with the head and neck lying on one side of the womb, and turning my hand to the other side, could feel nothing but the other arm, till at last I found out one knee among the membranes of the after-burthen ; I used all possible endeavours to draw it with my finger (bent in the shape of a hook) towards me, but by the closing of the inner orifice of the womb about my hand, the same was once more affected with such a benumbedness and pain, that not being in a condition to do its office, I was forced to draw it out of the womb.

However, having once more recover'd my strength, I brought my hand into the womb again, and conducting my fingers along one of the child's legs, I took hold of the foot, which I drew out very gently, for fear of tearing it off from the child's body, in which case I should have been at a loss for the other, which succeeded according to expectation ; so that having wrapp'd them both in a cloth, I pull'd out the buttocks and remaining part of the body to the shoulders, which I also brought out, leaving only the arm in the body, to serve me for a guide to the head ; but it broke from the trunk of the body, as the other had done ; and when I was pulling the head out, it also dis-



disjoin'd from the neck, it being not in my power to prevent it. I got two of my fingers into the child's mouth; but the under-jaw breaking, I was forc'd to let go my hold; and not being able to get my fingers either into the eyes or ears, I was necessitated to have recourse to the last remedy, *viz.* the hook. I convey'd my left hand first into the neck, and afterwards to the bottom of the womb, to serve as a guide to the hook, which was fix'd in one of the jaw-bones; but as I begun to pull, the bone either broke, or the hook slipt out. This made me to bring my fingers again into the womb, to fetch out the splinters of the bones. I found the brains coming out of the skull; but not being able to reach the remaining part of the head with my fingers, I was forc'd to pull it out with the hook; but as the bones of this part of the head were as sharp-edged as a knife, and as pointed as needles, they tore a small piece of the inner orifice of the womb, of the bigness of the sixth part of an inch. I am sensible it will be objected, *That I ought to have taken care against it;* unto which I answer, *That in such cases one is not always in a condition to do what one would, but only as well as one can.*

But this skinny piece adhering still at one end to the womb, I considered with myself, whether I had best cut it off or not: if I did not, I had reason to fear an inflammation, or dangerous tumour, and perhaps a gangrene in the  
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circumjacent parts; whereas if I cut it off, it was likely to turn to a suppuration, which would much abate the symptoms, and procure a healing; so I thought fit to cut it off, and the success was altogether answerable to my expectation. For leaving her for that night to the management of the midwife and nurse, I found her pretty well the next day, only that her privities were somewhat swell'd; so I order'd them to be fomented, or bathed with a decoction of barley and chervil, which removed the tumour: for the rest, I order'd her, as I commonly do with other child-bed women. I was somewhat suspicious, that the tearing of the inner orifice might occasion a barrenness in her, but the contrary has appear'd, she having been deliver'd of several children since. She kept her bed only fourteen days, and had every day applied to her two emollient clysters, according to our prescription in the beginning of this treatise.

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## OBSERVATION LXXVI.

*Of a Woman who died by the inverting of the Bottom of the Womb, two Hours after her Delivery.*

September 25th, 1681, I was sent for to open the dead body of a certain gentlewoman in Beau-freet, near St. Germain's the Elder. I found no outward imperfection on her body, except a swelling, or prominency of the bigness of a white loaf of two pounds, near the navel; an evident sign, that she had been afflicted with a navel rupture from the *os xiphoides*.

I asked how long she liv'd after her delivery, and was told, about two hours; that it was her first child; that she had been in hard labour two days, but was at last safely deliver'd, and the after-burthen follow'd without the least violence; which last I could not well apprehend, for if so, the womb could not have been thus inverted from its natural position. 'Tis true, they shew'd me the after-burthen entire; but notwithstanding this, it is certain, that it did stick to the womb, which follow'd the after-burthen as the midwife pull'd by the navel-



vel-string, and thus occasioned this inversion before the after-burthen was loosened. The midwife finding the woman ready to faint away, and upon search feeling something she did not well understand, she desired the assistance of a man-midwife, who being sent for, did all he could to reduce the womb into its natural station; but finding all his endeavours in vain, told the woman *she should provide for her soul*; and being ask'd *when*, he answer'd, *immediately*, because she was a dead woman. The poor patient surprized (as may be easily guess'd) at so unexpected and abrupt an answer, (especially since but a little before she had judg'd herself out of danger, and found no other inconveniency but some vomiting) was so dejected thereat, that she had scarce time to confess before she expir'd, as I have been inform'd by several persons there present.

I open'd the dead body, making two incisions betwixt the two collar-bones, down the breast-bone to the *os sacrum*; and then another incision cross the navel, from one side of the hips to the other, separating the exterior membranes, the muscles of the inferior belly and the paunch. All the parts of the inferior concavity appear'd natural, except that the stomach was somewhat extended with wind. Those of the breast or chest were the same. The privy parts also appear'd very sound, except that the *vagina* or passage to the

the neck of the womb was bruised about the breadth of two inches in its inferior part, a thing that frequently happens in the delivery of the first child. I convey'd my fingers within the orifice of the womb, where, on the extremity of the neck, I felt a soft body or substance, which I conjectur'd to be the interior side of the bottom of the womb. The bladder was without urine, and yet much extended. But to convince the standers by of the true cause of the death of this woman, and by what means she might have been preserved, I brought my fingers into the entrance of the neck of the womb, where, in the midst, I found a solid round substance of the bigness of a white loaf of two pounds, representing the crown of a hat turn'd the inside outward. I reduc'd this inverted bottom of the womb into its natural position with the circumjacent parts, and then shew'd the natural position of the interior orifice of the womb, which I took with all its parts out of the body, and putting the same upon a clean cloth, I represented its true position to the spectators, as also the privy parts, the *labia*, *urethra*, neck or entrance into the womb, &c. the last of which being dissected on one side (for fear of hurting the bladder) we perceiv'd an inflammation there, occasion'd perhaps by the forcing of the child thro' it, without any blame of the midwife. I plainly shew'd them the place where the womb had been  
turn'd

turn'd the inside outward, and how far it had been borne down into the neck of the womb.

The next being the dissection of the bladder, we found the same very natural, except that it was much distended, which perhaps might be the cause of the vomiting of this woman, by reason of the communication of the nerves betwixt the bladder, stomach and brain. The next thing I did, was to take an exact view of all and every part of the interior orifice of the womb, the better to satisfy my curiosity as to what has been said in our 75th observation, concerning the bearing down of this orifice and its membranous substance; it being certain, that there is sometimes to be found round about it a certain membranous circumference of the breadth of the sixth part of an inch, tho' not in all women, which ought to be well observ'd by men-midwives and midwives, who sometimes mistaking this membranous circumference for some remnants of the membranes belonging to the after-burthen, tear them off, and thereby occasion, not only excessive pains, but also death itself to the woman, or at least a dangerous flux of blood or barrenness, the womb not being able to retain the seed after injection.

I found the circumference in this woman of the breadth of a sixth part of an inch of a chestnut colour in its circuit; we open'd it and the whole womb, which was half an inch

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thick,



thick, and bright, except in that place where the after-burthen had been joined to it; it was also very entire: 'tis true, we found within it part of the membranes of the after-burthen adhering to one side, of the bigness of two palms of a hand, which I easily separated, it being like a very thin leather. This could produce no inconveniency to the woman, as had been observ'd before. The womb was thicker on that part where the after-burthen had been annexed to it (and from whence also the child receives its nourishment) than in any other part.

This may serve as a warning for people to pitch upon good and experienced Men-midwives or midwives: for, in case this inverted womb had immediately been reduc'd to its natural station, they had saved the woman's life.

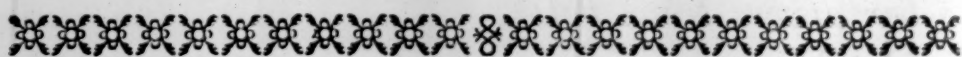
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## OBSERVATION LXXVII.

*The Delivery of a Child with the Yard and  
Cods foremost.*

NOvember 1st, 1681, I was sent for to a gentlewoman in labour, living in the street of St. Dennis, opposite to the street de la Chauveracrie, who having but a few pains, I guessed her travail not to be very near as yet. Upon search I could not discover any part of the child. About two hours after the pains encreased, but rather forward to the belly than backward to the hips. I search'd her again, and finding there was now some hopes of an approaching labour, I ordered her to be laid upon the bed, and upon search felt part of the child, which being very soft, I could not distinguish what it was at that time; but after another strong pain, I found it to be the yard and cod of the child. I convey'd my fingers along the thigh, which did lie in the hindermost part of the womb with the knees bent, and taking hold of one foot, drew it to the orifice and baptized it, and then brought it out in the same manner as has been mentioned before in the observations.

It proved a lusty boy, who did very well ; and the mother had a very good lying-in, using no other remedies but such as I commonly give to women in child-bed, as cooling and emollient clysters ; and for her diet, solid and digestible meats, which I always allow of, provided there be no signs of a fever.



## OBSERVATION LXXVIII.

*The Delivery of a Woman of Quality of a Fœtus, not above four and a half Months old, the Head remaining in the Womb, and was not brought thence together with the After-burthen, but with great Difficulty.*

OCTOBER 17th, 1682, I was sent for to a lady of quality, in the street of St. Eustache, being afflicted with a violent flux of Blood. I enquired after the reason, unto which she answer'd, *That she was four months and a half with child, but could give no reason for this flux, she having been very careful not to strain herself, or to commit any other error that could occasion it.* I enquired further into the circumstances that attended her sickness ; she told me, *That as often as the flux was ready to appear, she per-*



*perceiv'd before-hand a pain in the right side of her hips, and thence downwards along the kidneys to the bladder; and that after she had felt this pain, she never miss'd of evacuating only five or six drops of blood, which being follow'd within five or six days after by a violent flux of blood, had caused her several times to miscarry, in which I had the honour to be assistant to her divers times before.*

Dr. Moreau had left nothing unattempted both before and after her being with child, that might conduce for the preservation of this Fœtus, and to prevent a miscarriage. But notwithstanding all his care she had another relapse, and therefore desired my assistance.

I desired her to be let blood, and that a physician might be called. Dr. Puyton, a learned physician of the faculty of Paris, being sent for accordingly, not only approv'd of what I had done, but also order'd a second phlebotomy to allay her pain in the belly, which continued as yet. The same was by this second letting of blood appeased for some days; but returning with greater violence than before, about two o'clock in the night, I was sent for in a coach, for the more speed's sake, and upon search found one hand of the fœtus. In the mean while the violence of the flux increased, and her strength decreasing in proportion, she pressed hard to be delivered. I told her, *it was a nice point, and involved in*

*great Difficulties, because a fœtus of that age was not to be turned so well as a perfect child ; but she being urgent for a quick delivery, and her husband seconding her request, I resolv'd to begin the work, without any further delay, there being but little probability to prevail with Dr. Puyton to come at that time of the night.*

Having therefore well greased my fingers, I convey'd into the inner orifice of the womb, which I found open'd of about the bigness of a French crown piece, and so soft, as to give way with ease to the motion of my fingers, which I spread by degrees and brought into the womb, where taking hold of the feet, I drew them towards me, but as ill fortune would have it, the head remaining within the womb, I was forced to bring it out, tho' not without great difficulty, by putting my fingers into the mouth. But the after-burthen not following, I would willingly have staid for the coming of Dr. Puyton, but the time and occasion being too precious, I was forced to proceed ; for in case I had drawn out my hand, I could not possibly have brought it in again, or at least not without causing excessive pain to the woman.

So I endeavour'd to peel off the after-burthen with the tops of my fingers, but could effect it only by small pieces ; so the patient herself assisted me courageously, by straining her belly with her hands downwards, whilst mine were employ'd in the neck, and within  
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the womb itself; so that at last I got it all away. Dr. Puyton coming in the morning, and being inform'd what was pass'd, spoke highly in recommendation of this delivery, and took such effectual care, that the patient felt not the least symptoms of a fever. He prescrib'd her only a good nourishing diet, and the juice of a fourth part of a four orange in each cup of broth, besides two clysters every day.

The fœtus, or child, was four months and a half old. The woman did eat solid meats, the second day, and was very well after it. Hence it is evident, how erroneous is the vulgar opinion among the women, that the least hurt with the nail proves mortal to a woman in child-bed; it being impossible that such a delivery as this could be perform'd without it, less or more. The chief cause of the death of so many child-bed women is to be attributed rather to the ill habit of their bodies, or some defluxions upon the breast. I have frequently met with women in child-bed in our hospitals of Paris, whose bodies being open'd after their death, the lungs were found to be putrefy'd. The same may be said of the turning of the milk, and the stoppage of the flooding occasioned after by melancholy, or sweet-scented things, the last whereof causeth sometimes fits and faintings, which I have seen to last twenty-four hours. I remember a certain gentlewoman



in St. Mederic's-street, who being recovered out of such a swooning fit by phlebotomy, repeated several times by Mr. Bouclier my brother surgeon, remembered every thing that had passed. This disaster was occasion'd by the strong scent of a perfumer her next neighbour.

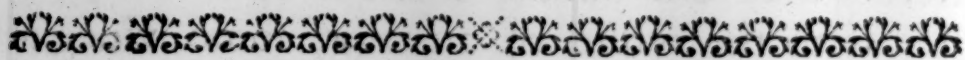
The same may be said of melancholy. I knew a gentlewoman, the wife of a merchant near St. Paul's church, who, out of melancholy (perhaps also the milk might have a share in the matter) broke out into no less than nine ulcers, on her arms, thighs and legs. Dr. Dicakivoy, at present deacon of the faculty of Paris, managed the matter so well, that after eight phlebotomies, and the opening of the ulcers (out of each of which issued forth three or four ounces of well concocted purulent matter) the woman recover'd her health. And here I can't pass by in silence, what happen'd to me upon this occasion, being a most remarkable, and scarce credible accident. The doctor and I coming one day to open one of these ulcers in her arm, which contained betwixt three and four ounces of purulent matter, and the patient refusing positively to permit me, the doctor thought fit to have it delayed till the next day; when both returning to perform the intended opening, we stood amaz'd, to see that the ulcer was vanish'd, without leaving behind it the least signs of any suppuration.

But

But we were no less surpriz'd with what we saw immediately after : for as I was employ'd to remove a plaister from one of the ulcers of the other arm, which was closing up the day before, and had not emitted any purulent matter in eight days, above four ounces of well concocted purulent matter issued thence with much violence ; a convincing instance, that nature has certain hidden channels not discoverable by our eyes.

The same may be said of turning, or the motion of the milk in women in child-bed, who, from the second to the fifth day, are commonly seiz'd with a fever ; and in those days the breasts increase remarkably, till the milk turning back to the womb, discharges itself there with the flooding, tho' the ways thro' which it is convey'd, are not discernible to our eyes. Mr. Briset and I have in our hospitals of Paris open'd a good number of dead bodies of child-bed women, but could never as yet discover any passage whereby the milk might pass to the womb. I believe this to be as investigable as the true cause why some women are troubled with the after-pains, and others not ; and what is more strange, many women, who never were sensible of these after-pains in their first lying-in, are afflicted with them ever after to a high degree. I commonly give to women in this condition five ounces of the water of the pellitory of the wall, two ounces of syrup  
of

of maiden-hair, mix'd with the juice of two four oranges; but this must not be given till after the delivery. The water opens, the syr-rup and orange juice promotes the flooding, and in some removes the after-pains.



### OBSERVATION LXXIX.

*The Delivery of a Gentlewoman seized with a violent Flux of Blood in the Seventh Month after her Bigness, and afterwards again towards the End of her Eighth Month.*

**J**ULY 16th, 1682, I was sent for about four in the afternoon to a gentlewoman in labour, in the street of Bourdonnois, seiz'd with a most violent flux of blood, after a colic. Upon enquiry, I found, that being seiz'd with such another flux in her seventh month, attended with a fever, she had been very well cured by Dr. Lalier, Faber and Monguireau, who let her blood eight times, and order'd several purges and clysters. Towards the end of her eighth month being seiz'd with another fit of the colic, which continued all night, the same was at last appeased by the use of a clyster. But being follow'd the same afternoon,



about four o'clock, by a flux of blood, I was sent for. After phlebotomy in the right arm, I order'd the following plaister to be applied to the region of the hips.

Take Bole-armoniac one ounce, of Dragon's blood half an ounce, of gips (such as the plaisterers use) one ounce, make it up into a plaister with the white of an egg, some vinegar and water.

This somewhat allay'd the flux; but the same returning within an hour, so as to put the patient into a swoon, I search'd her, and finding the inner orifice open'd to the bigness of a French half-crown, I felt within a certain soft substance, which proving the after-burthen, I conjectur'd it to be fastened to the orifice. The case being thus involv'd in no small difficulties, I requir'd the advice of a good physician (as one ought to do in such cases, to save one's reputation) and Dr. Long, a noted physician of the faculty of Paris, being sent for, he declared her to be so weak, that she must infallibly die, unless she were speedily delivered. He prescrib'd her only a cordial of the confection of hyacinths, of pearls, and the syrrup of pomegranates.

He was no sooner gone, but the patient falling again into a swoon, occasioned by the great loss of blood, which continued still, we were forc'd to hold burning paper, and burning feathers of partridges before her nose, to stop the vapours, which arose up into her head.

I found the best effect from the smoak of a burnt nutmeg, held to her nose.

Whilst she was receiving the sacraments, Dr. Lalier and Faber came along with Mr. Bouclet, a famous man-midwife, to see her, who judg'd her incapable of taking any remedies, except a little nourishment. They asked me *my judgment*; I told them, *That she must be deliver'd speedily*; but they being of opinion, *That we must have further patience*, they left me with the patient, who falling again into a swoon, we expected every moment her death.

Hereupon I desired her husband to fetch another doctor, in whose presence I might undertake her delivery, unto which I was most earnestly pressed by the mother of the patient, who cry'd, *That since according to the judgment of the physicians, she must infallibly die, unless she were deliver'd*, I should attempt it to save her life, notwithstanding their sentiments to the contrary.

By this time her husband being come in with another doctor, that belong'd to the faculty, and a man of great practice; he seeing that the woman was ready to expire, and that her mother and husband urg'd her delivery, he consented to the same, tho' there were no signs of a labour, she complaining only of a burning pain about the heart, which she shewed us with her hand, being almost quite out of her senses, and scarce able to speak. Pursuant to our resolution I

con-

convey'd my hand (well greased) into the neck of the womb, where I found the inner orifice to the bigness of a French crown-piece, and in a condition to admit of a further dilatation with my fingers. I felt the after-burthen fastened quite round the circumference of the orifice; but being separated gently with my finger, I brought all my fingers and the hand to the bottom of the womb, whereunto I had open'd my way, by spreading my fingers, and entering gradually, to cause as little pain as possibly I could to the woman. I say, as little, for it is impossible it should be done quite without, tho' most women in this condition are not sensible of it; or if they are, have not strength to complain, occasioned by the great loss of blood and spirits. As my fingers were entering the womb, it felt no otherwise than a bladder, and coming within it, I open'd the membranes, and feeling the child still swimming in its water, this gave me a good opportunity to get the feet, and to accomplish the delivery of the child, which however had been dead some time before. Immediately after the mother recover'd somewhat of her swoonings, and the burning heat about the heart ceased, owing perhaps their origin to the vapours risen out of the womb, which I leave to the determination of the doctors.

It is observable, that in all deliveries, that part which appears first comes forth last; these  
are



are the membranes of the after-burthen, which first present themselves before the inner orifice of the womb, being forced thither by the pains, and the water contained within them. After the breaking of these membranes, follows the head or any other part of the child ; after that the womb-cake or after-burthen, and at last the two membranes. In some women the membrane *amnios* is separated from the *chorion*, as it was in this woman, the *amnios* enclosing the navel-string, and the *chorion* the after-burthen ; sometimes there remains part of the *amnios* adhering to the inside of the womb, which by reason of its thin substance is not to be separated thence without danger, but is commonly brought away with the flooding, without any further inconveniency.

I brought forth the after-burthen, which appear'd very found, tho' somewhat dry, which as well as the death of the child was by the doctors attributed to the vast loss of blood of the mother.

When I reflect upon this case, I can't but pity a great many women, who are lost for want of timely help, upon such occasions. I staid with our patient till midnight, when leaving her to the care of her mother and nurse, I charg'd them not to give her above two spoonfuls of food at a time, sometimes of broth, sometimes of jelly of meats, and sometimes a spoonful of wine, for fear, by  
taking

taking too much at once, she might be in danger of being suffocated, as I have known it to have happen'd in other persons, which I thought not fit to pass by in silence, to serve as a warning to such as attend women in child-bed, to be cautious how they administer food to those under their care, let them be never so weak, the excess thereof being of mortal consequence.

The next day she pursued the same course, finding now no other inconveniency but her want of strength; her flooding was very moderate, and so was the motion of the milk betwixt the fourth and fifth day; and as it began to abate, her left foot began to swell from the sixth till the ninth day, when the leg also began to swell, and at last the thigh, attended with most violent pains.

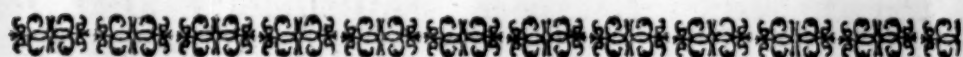
We prescrib'd her an ointment made of oil of camomil and of sweet almonds, upon which we laid a poultice made of new milk, crumbs of white bread, the yolks of eggs and some saffron, adding to it some of the emollient herbs, as the mallows, althea, violet leaves and the roots of white lillies bruised. About the twelfth day the pain was something abated in the affected parts, but shifted to the right thigh, leg and foot. The doctors ask'd me, *Whether there might be any ill disposition in the womb*; I told them, *No*; and searching the exterior parts, I found them in a good condition, which I declared to the doctors,

doctors, adding, *That according to my opinion, this swelling might owe its origin to the phlegmatic humour that abounded in the blood, caused by the late great loss of blood and spirits.* Accordingly they prescribed divers remedies (such as have been mentioned already before) which being prepar'd by Mr. Janston, a noted apothecary, perform'd its operation so successfully, that the patient was able to bear a purge the eighteenth day after her delivery. This purge being follow'd immediately after by a small looseness, and a strong evacuation thro' the urinal vessels, the swelling abated, and she was restored to her former health.

This violent flux of blood may serve as an instance to men-midwives, that, as they ought to proceed with circumspection in such cases, so they must not be faint-hearted, and not prefer their reputation before the safety of the life of a woman. Had this been a person of note, perhaps nobody would have ventur'd upon this operation, as I did. But I say again, in such cases you ought to have more regard to God and your neighbour, than any other considerations: To God, who must needs be highly displeased with such a neglect: to our neighbour, who ought not to be left destitute in such pressing emergencies, in which many times a poor woman comes  
off



off better than those of a higher rank. I cannot conclude this head better, than with what Dr. Bovillet, a most expert person, and Physician to his Highness the Prince of Conde, said to us, when he came to visit our patient; viz. *That in such cases as these, it was the duty of every honest man strictly to follow the Rules of his profession or art, without any regard to the condition or quality of the patient, or to the censures of the world.*



## OBSERVATION LXXX.

*The Delivery of a Woman of three Children, the first alive and perfect, the other two being dead.*

**M**ARCH the 18th, 1683, I was sent for at ten o'clock at night to a gentlewoman in Labour, in St. Martin's street, in the parish of St. Mederic, who complaining of most violent pains in her hips and fundament; upon search I found nothing as yet approaching to a labour, nor any opening of the womb, except that it began to bear downwards to the outward orifice; so that being able to touch with my finger its whole circumference, and

S feel

feel its weight, I judged the child to be well turned. Thus I returned home again ; but the pains increasng I was sent for again the next morning, at two o'clock, when I found the membranes appearing full of water : I began to hope for a speedy delivery, notwithstanding the woman had for several days past been much troubled with continual vomiting, without being able to keep either any solid or liquid matter in her stomach ; besides that, she was corpulent, complained of a strange sickness in her stomach ; and that, she could scarce feel the child to stir, a thing often complained of by women in labour, which now began to advance pretty well in our patient. About four a clock in the morning I ordered her a clyster made only of the decoction of white bread, and four ounces of well despumated honey ; after which finding the membranes with the child to advance apace, I ordered the woman to be laid conveniently upon a bed, whereupon the membranes breaking, there issued thence two or three pounds of water, the child following immediately with the crown of its head foremost, which thence they call in France a Coronation. I then ordered her to be laid a-cross the bed again, soon after which the pains increasng, and the child making its way forward, the head came out ; so I laid one of my hands on each side of the ears, and pulled out the whole child, which cried immediately, an infallible sign

sign of its being alive and well. The navel-string being twisted round its waist, I untwisted it, and tied a string with a knot on it, two inches breadth from the child's belly (as has been told before) but judging by the slender bulk of the child, that there might perhaps be another behind in the womb, I tied another string two inches higher, and then cut the string betwixt the two knots.

Notwithstanding this, I searched after the after-burthen of the first, pulling gently by the navel-string, without the least violence, and conveying my hand along the string within the orifices, I drew out the after-burthen entire with its membranes; but letting my fingers slip further into the womb, I felt a small hand, which I told to the woman's husband, and soon after finding my hand bedawbed with an ill-scented slime, I judged the child to be dead. Whilst I was endeavouring to turn the child in the womb, I felt a certain substance the bigness of the sharp end of a neats-tongue fastened near the inner orifice of the womb, with a string joined to it, which making me to suspect it to be an after-burthen, I let it alone; but turning my fingers to the right side of the bottom of the womb, I found there some protuberances, not unlike bruised bones squeezed flat and close together. I left these also, to search for the feet, which I found, but without any skin; I pulled by the toes as you would do with a her-



ring by the tail, it being of the same bigness, tho' near a foot long. The body was putrified and quite dried up, covered with a yellow excrement; the head was quite flat, and the bones squeezed together: the under-jaw was split, but covered with a putrid reddish matter; you could discern neither eyes nor nose; the hands had their true shape, but were quite dried up. The navel-string was fastened to the after-burthen, within an inch of its edge, and resembled in shape a neat's-tongue. I conveyed my fingers along it, and met with another child, lesser than the former, being of the bigness, and as dry as a red-herring; the head was as flat as a crown-piece, without any brains; the chin turned towards the right shoulder; the body was of the same thickness with the head; the eyes were discernable in their proper places: the nose crooked, and the mouth split; the chin had its natural shape, but no broader than the edge of a crown-piece; the neck was of the length of a quarter of an inch; the arms and legs were flat and squeezed together, like the rest of the body; which made me conjecture, that they had been thus pressed for want of room in the womb; but what most surprised me was their different size.

For the last child was only eight inches long; the second, which was most putrified, a foot; and the first-born was alive and quite perfect, and immediately after its birth discharged its

*Meconium*, or black excrements. I found the navel-string of these two last closely joined to the hindermost part of the womb, with both the navel-strings inserted into it. I began to separate it from the womb, beginning on the peaked end, which being very dry and hard stuck very close, yet I made shift to peel it off by degrees, like as we do with the rind of an orange; which, as it is not to be done without great trouble and pain, so it is without any further danger, provided you proceed with due caution; it being observable, *That women after an hard labour do better in their lying-in (generally speaking) than those who are delivered with more ease, especially if they have had the advantage of a skilful man-midwife or midwife, whereof I could give you many instances of my own experience.* The reason whereof, as also, why so many women in this year 1683, have born two or three children at once (a thing not observed in many years before) I leave to the judgment of the physicians. I have delivered several of them, and this last mentioned could not but puzzle my thoughts, that a woman should be delivered of three children at once, one whereof should prove perfect and well, the other two dead, of so different a size, with one after-burthen to both; besides that, the least of all was not so much putrified as the other. I know I shall be told, it is a superfoetation; but after all, this does not satisfy my understanding; and I am apt to believe,

will not do so to others. I leave it therefore to the determination of the physicians, who are the most proper judges of it.

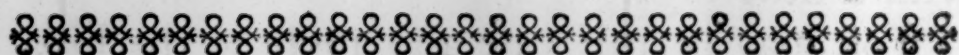
But to return to our observation : the edge of the after-burthen of these two last children was very hard and dry. The navel-string of the smallest child was joined to the after-burthen near the edge, opposite to the navel-string of the other child ; neither appeared there the least sign of any membranes, yet I found some small remnants of them (upon search with my hand) within the womb, which were much putrified. I brought them out thence with abundance of coagulated blood, and then stopped her privy parts with a cloth.

As this was an uncommon case which seldom ends without some ill symptoms to the woman, I desired Dr. Vasteus and Dr. Auzon, both learned physicians of the faculty of Paris to give her a visit, which they did, and ordered an ounce of syrrup of maiden-hair, mixt with the same quantity of oil of sweet almonds. I had given her immediately after her delivery two ounces of the same syrrup, mixt with the juice of three four oranges ; she did extremely well that whole day, and the following night, without any after-pains, tho' it was her first lying-in. Her flooding succeeded well, without a fever, head-ach, or the least pain in any other part. I applied to the inferior region of her belly, just above the  
womb,



womb the following plaister, which much promoted the flooding : this plaister is famous, for that it was used by our Queen, by the advice of the Lady Foquet. Its composition is only of cerus ten ounces, of red-lead one pound, Venice soap ten ounces, and oil of olives two pounds ; boil and mix it to the consistency of a plaister.

It is excellently good to be laid upon the navel of a woman, eight days before and after her delivery ; but she must keep her bed all the while : you must change it as often as it becomes dry. It has divers other singular virtues, not to be mentioned here, as being beyond our purpose. I had this receipt from Dr de Beleval, Chancellor of the university of Montpellier, and Mr. Pecpuet. Mr. Janston tells abundance of it, it being of singular virtue to promote the flooding in child-bed women, whereof you have an instance in this ; for no sooner was it applied, but a whitish matter issued from the womb, supposed to be the remnants of the coagulated blood, because the turning of the milk does not happen till betwixt the second and sixth day ; besides that, this was a watery substance. I ordered her for nine days successively a clyster, made of the emollient decoction, mixt with three ounces of honey, which succeeded so well, that she felt not the least symptoms of a fever, and continues very well and fat since.



## OBSERVATION LXXXI.

*Of a violent Flux of Blood, followed by a Fæ-  
tus, inclosed in its Membranes, like an Egg  
without the Shell.*

**A**PRIL 22d, 1682, I was called to a wo-  
man afflicted with a violent flux of  
blood, and who had evacuated a great quantity  
of coagulated blood before my coming. Consi-  
dering she had strength enough as yet, I let her  
fix ounces of blood, after which she fainted for  
half an hour, but then recovered. I conveyed  
my fingers into the neck of the womb,  
whence I brought forth many clods of coagu-  
lated blood. This, and a natural stool, gave  
her great ease, tho' the same is most to be at-  
tributed to the letting of blood, whereof I have  
had frequent experience in women troubled  
with the flux of blood. I ordered her after  
this some nourishment, and, two hours after,  
divers clysters of the decoction of cooling and  
emollient herbs, such as mallows, althea, vi-  
olet leaves, lettuces, and purslain, which last  
is of singular virtue in stopping bloody fluxes,  
used either in clysters, or taken inwardly,  
especially if you take of its juice squeezed out  
of

of the herb, and depurated three times a day, with a little sugar.

You may in this case also apply to the hips and the outward orifice of the womb, cloths dipped in warm water mixed with vinegar; but vinegar, in which you have steeped before-hand some *lethargicum* of gold, is much better. You must put a pound of this *lethargicum* into three pounds of the strongest vinegar, and let it stand in hot ashes, after stirring it up with a stick. The vinegar you must separate from the *lethargicum* by percolating it thro' a cloth, and then mix it with water, as you do with a common oxycrate, with ordinary vinegar; but this is white as milk, and of greater effect, in this and divers other distempers.

The clysters that had been applied to our patient not coming away as they ought to do, I ordered her another of the same decoction, but with the addition of three ounces of honey, which had the desired effect; and tho' the flux did not cease, yet was it much diminished. About three o'clock in the afternoon I was sent for again, when meeting there with Dr. Paschal, a very curious person, I desired him to inspect with me the clods of blood evacuated by our patient. Among these we discovered a black membranous body, inclining to a muscous substance, covered in many places with coagulated pieces of blood, fixt as it were within the substance of the membranes; the whole of the bigness of a walnut with its great rind.

Upon



Upon an exact view and touch I found it pretty hard, which made me tell Dr. Pascal, that it certainly contained a foetus, or at least some water. I opened it very gently, for fear of spoiling the foetus (if any such there should be) and in the midst of it discovered a thin transparent bladder, of the bigness of a hazelnut, in shape not unlike an egg, full of a transparent liquor, containing a small, white, and oleaginous substance, appearing like the first draught or beginning of a child, being of the bigness only of a fly or a clove. Round about this bladder, which contained the foetus, I saw, within the membranous circumference, divers other bladders, resembling the small eggs you see in the knots of pullets with eggs, or to a bunch of small grapes, all transparent, but of a different size, the biggest not exceeding the bigness of a small pea. You might also compare these bladders to those raised by burning upon our skin.

The patient had told us, *That, according to her reckoning, she was three months gone with child, she having not had her monthly times since; but the foetus bearing not the least proportion to that time, it might be supposed that it died long before, for want of due nourishment, occasioned by the great quantity of coagulated blood, which surrounded the membranes to the thickness of half an inch. The membrane or skin which contained the liquid substance, was joined to the musculous part by another small skin,*

skin, being much thinner than that which contained the foetus, which being as thin as the finest and thinnest taffety, contained a transparent liquor, and was thicker in that part where the navel-string was in it. This bladder, which in all respects resembled an egg without its hard shell, might afford some speculation, whether mankind are progenerated in eggs, like the birds ; but this being beyond my compass, I leave to the consideration of abler persons than myself. I took this tender skin entire, with its water and foetus, and put it into a bottle with clear spring water, for fear that the spirit of wine should consume its skin, which was very tender and thin.

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